

**MASSIVE ATTACK**  
The coolest band in Britain are back after four years away  
THE EYE

**DECONSTRUCTING WOODY ALLEN**  
Hollywood's most neurotic director talks about his new film  
THE EYE

**THE LAST DANCE:**  
Ballet stars search for life after the boards  
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**WHEN FERGUSON FINISHED FIRST**  
Manchester United manager's winning debut  
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# THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 17 April 1998 45p (50p) No 3,587

## Brown defies warnings of recession

By Diane Coyle  
Economic Editor

GORDON Brown insisted yesterday that short-term pressures would not divert him from his long-term economic strategy, despite the news that export orders and sales for UK firms have fallen to a seven-year low due to the strong pound.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, talking tough in Washington where he is attending an International Monetary Fund meeting, added for good measure that he would "look in" strict spending plans.

A new survey published by the British Chambers of Commerce warned that manufacturing was a "hair's breadth" away from recession. Export sales fell to their lowest since the depths of the last recession in the first quarter of this year.

Mr Brown acknowledged that the strong pound was of concern to exporters, but he said: "What would be an even greater worry would be any risk of a return to the kind of stagflation we saw in the late 1980s and early 1990s."

The Government's policies had already delivered lower long-term interest rates, he said. "I believe the UK economy is in a position to establish a first time in decades, a circle of low inflation, high investment and a higher sustainable growth."

The Chancellor said the Government would also stay

tough on public expenditure, using the Comprehensive Spending Review as well as the recently-announced "code for fiscal stability".

"It is only if we manage to achieve spending discipline across the board, through the elimination of waste and a rigorous focus on our priorities, that we will be able to ensure investment in our key public services, particularly education and health," the Chancellor added. The spending review is due to be completed by the summer.

Critics of Mr Brown's tough line found new ammunition in the latest business survey from the chambers of commerce. It showed a decline in manufacturing, and suggested a modest slowdown in services. But service sector firms said they were hiring more people.

Peter Tilley, the shadow Chancellor, said: "Gordon Brown claimed he would end the cycle of boom and bust. But he is the first Chancellor to give us both at once - manufacturing in recession while services risk overheating."

The chambers turned their firepower on the Bank of England, whose Monetary Policy Committee has held interest rates unchanged but with a split vote since January. Ian Peters, deputy director general, said: "The Bank of England must now display a united front and make clear that interest rates have peaked."

It would only take one more

rate rise to topple manufacturing into recession, he warned.

Minutes of the committee's March meeting, published on Wednesday, showed that for the second month running Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, had to use his casting vote to prevent an increase in borrowing costs.

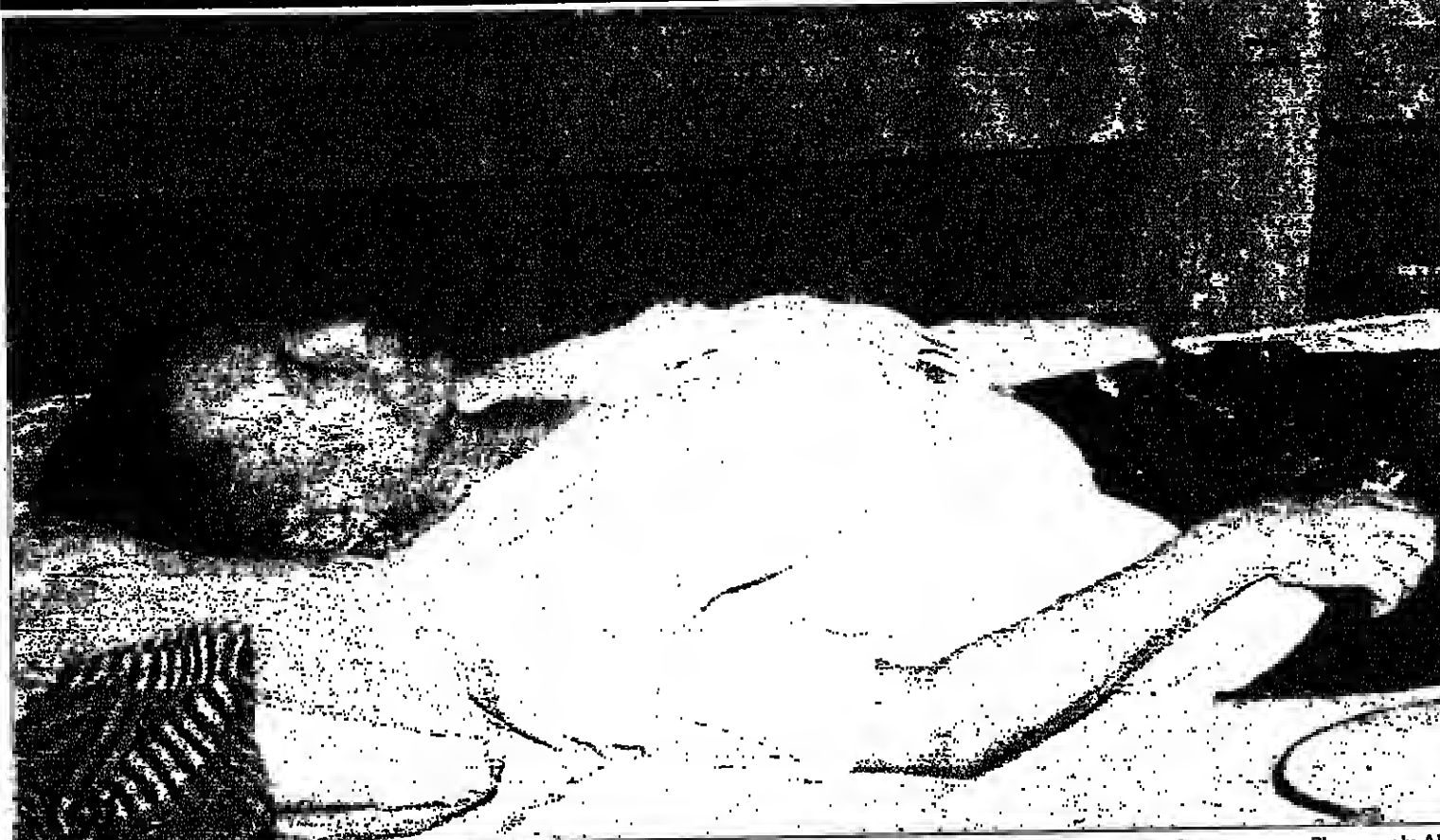
Yesterday's survey had something for both sides of the interest rate debate. All the indicators for manufacturing took a turn for the worse between late 1997 and the first quarter of this year, and confidence fell to the lowest level since the last recession.

Export deliveries and orders also weakened in services, but still-buoyant domestic demand raised planned employment and investment. Service businesses also continued to report a record level of difficulty in recruiting new staff, which will do nothing to allay concerns about pay pressures in the economy.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said last night that Mr Brown would also be holding talks with the World Bank and the IMF in the hope of underpinning the Northern Ireland peace settlement with increased investment. Mr Brown is expected to visit Ulster next month, to announce the details of a major economic package, which would provide added incentive for long-term domestic and overseas investment.

Exports under pressure, page 19

## The most evil man in the world is dead



The body of Pol Pot in a Cambodian village two miles from the Thai border. He suffered a heart attack on Wednesday

Photograph: AFP

By Stephen Vines  
in Hong Kong

POL POT, the Cambodian dictator whose name is synonymous with genocide, is dead. The man responsible for the killing, torture and starvation of over one million of his people, died peacefully following a heart attack.

There was confusion at first over whether reports of his death were true. But it now seems clear that he died late on Wednesday in a Cambodian village two miles from the border with Thailand. His body was shown to a group of journalists yesterday. They included the American reporter Nate Thayer, who has interviewed Pol Pot twice recently and is convinced that the dead man is the former dictator.

After causing havoc in his lifetime by plunging Cambodia into one of the most disastrous experiments in social

engineering the world has seen, his death at the age of 76 was prosaic.

Dressed in baggy grey trousers and an off-white, short-sleeved cotton shirt his body was laid out in a simple hut reeking of formaldehyde. Teenage Khmer Rouge soldiers, who resembled those who carried him to power for four bloody years, starting in 1975, guarded the body.

Before he died, they had been his captors. According to reports earlier in the week the rump of the Khmer Rouge had been planning to turn him over for international trial in a last attempt to save their own skins from advancing Cambodian government forces.

Pol Pot died deserted by his erstwhile comrades-in-arms in their last stronghold. Having inspired terror in Cambodia, he had become an entirely marginal figure. As if to emphasise the isolation facing the Khmer Rouge, the

only sound to be heard while Pol Pot lay at rest was the rumble of fighting between Khmer Rouge and government troops.

There is no suggestion of foul play in Pol Pot's death. Since he was arrested by his own troops last year he has been ill. The Cambodian government spokesman, Khieu Kanharith, said the state wanted to conduct a medical investigation but thought it unlikely that the former dictator had been killed.

Non Nou, the Khmer Rouge commander responsible for Pol Pot's security, said: "If they are afraid the body was tampered with, ask his wife. She was there."

It is unlikely that there will be much mourning for Pol Pot. Cambodia's King, Norodom Sihanouk, who twice allied himself with the Khmer Rouge, recently called him "one of the most horrible monsters ever created".

Known as "Brother Number One" during the years of his rule, Pol Pot may have been responsible for the deaths of one-fifth of Cambodia's population. Researchers believe as many as 1.7 million people died as a result of executions, torture and mass starvation.

Pol Pot received his higher education in France and acquired a reputation there as an amiable, fun-loving student. It was in France that he also became acquainted with Mandan and hark in his homeland he built up the revolutionary movement which overthrew Lon Nol's regime in 1975.

The movement he helped to create is now largely decimated. It helped create the current government led by Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge commander who is also no stranger to using violence for political ends.

Rupert Cornwell, page 17  
Obituary, page 18

## British firms gave US politicians £3m

By Fran Abrams and  
Chris Brown

BRITISH companies channelled almost £3m to the main American political parties in the run up to the country's last elections, it emerged last night.

United Kingdom companies give more than any other foreign firms to American politics, a study has shown. Four of the 10 biggest foreign givers were British-owned.

The money has caused a row in the United States because donations by foreign companies are illegal there. These payments were legal because they came through American subsidiaries, but they have led to allegations of foreign influence.

Some were made voluntarily by employees through "political action committees", or PACs, set up by the firms.

Three quarters of the money - £4.3m in 1995 and 1996 - went to the Republicans, though most firms also made donations to the Democrats.

Among the British-owned companies which put money into political campaigns were Brown and Williamson Tobacco, a subsidiary of British American Tobacco, which gave \$1.02m (£680,000) and Glaxo Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals firm, which gave \$921,454 (£614,000).

Others included two more pharmaceutical outfits, Zeneca, which gave \$325,247 (£216,000) and SmithKline Beecham, which gave \$264,950 (£176,000).

The issue was highlighted at yesterday's hearing of the inquiry into political funding,

which is headed by Lord Neill of Bladen.

Neel Moister of Labour Research, a group funded through trade unions to look at British political funding, said that some companies which had publicly

Donations by US arms of British firms in 1995 and 1996	\$
BP Industries	1,888,996
Glaxo Wellcome	921,454
British Petroleum	353,329
Zeneca Group	325,247
SmithKline Beecham	264,950
David Metropolitan	211,732
ICI	176,450
Waters	180,000
NEC PLC	200,000
Pharmacia and Upjohn	170,500
Bank of Communications	80,000

promised not to make political donations in this country had made them in the US.

"If they have got operations in the US then I have no problem with the donations," he said. "But many multi-nationals say they make no political donations while giving money in America."

A recent study by a Washington-based group, the Center for Responsive Politics, examined records to show the total giving through non-American companies in the run up to the November 1996 federal elections. The companies' contributions are legal as long as they are made by their US arm and no foreign nationals are involved in the decision to donate.

The biggest donor was the Canadian Seagram Company, at \$2.1m (£1.4m), followed by BAT,

Rupert Murdoch's Australian NewsCorp which gave \$921,454 (£614,000) and Glaxo Wellcome.

A spokesman for BAT said the company did not correspond exactly with those given, though its subsidiaries had PACs which distributed voluntary payments from employees.

Chris Major, a spokesman for Zeneca, said all the company's donations complied with US regulations. The firm's own figures showed it gave \$191,000 in 1996, including payments from its PAC, he added. Corporate giving was standard practice in the US. "It... facilitates access to legislators. In the States there is a special interest democracy which insists on active involvement in the political process," he said.

### Today's news

#### Milkman charged over flood death

A milkman whose 14-year-old passenger drowned when their van was swept away in floods was yesterday charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Warwickshire Police said Vincent Gallagher, 34, from the Stoke area of Coventry in the West Midlands, was bailed to appear before magistrates next month.

Carl Giles, also from the Stoke area of the city, died when the van was swept into the River Leam in Eathorpe, Warwickshire on Friday. A police search was launched and the teenager's body was discovered on Saturday under a bridge. Mr Gallagher was dragged from the water by a police officer who tied ropes around his waist and waded into the torrential water.

#### Peace move

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble moved to break opposition from within his own ranks to the Northern Ireland Agreement.

Page 2

#### Cancers missed

Breast screening of women in Humber failed to detect cancers in 17 women because an outdated mammography machine was producing poor quality X-rays.

Page 3



## How to develop an extraordinary memory

Have you noticed how your memory always lets you down just when you need it most?

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## The consummate artist - or just selling sex?

By Kate Watson-Smyth



Angela Marshall Selling Pictures and Sex

An artist is today planning to sell her body as well as her paintings in what should be one of the most outrageous art exhibitions ever to be staged in London.

Angela Marshall will admit people to a gallery one at a time and paint a picture while they are there. If they want to buy it, and crucially, if she decides to sell it to them, they will have to perform a sexual act with her. A small picture will cost £25 and require oral sex; a medium-size picture is full sex,

at £50 and for a large painting, at £75, "anything kinky".

Alex Chappell, curator of *Fuckart and Pimp* at the Decima Gallery in south-east London, said: "It is essential that the painter have sex with Angela in order for the art to be consummated. It is not art until its owner has done so."

Selected members of the public will also be invited to watch the painting taking place and the subsequent "consummation".

The gallery is fully booked today - with six one-hour sessions - and most of Saturday. Ms Marshall, who comes from

Los Angeles, has already met all the clients.

"I had to meet them first to tell if I would feel like selling a painting to them and I think I will be able to," she said.

"I have never had sex with a bunch of men in a row before but I don't find that a problem. Maybe I will only sell a couple, but I am really not concerned about the sex. It is about the art and the interaction with the person."

But questions were last night raised about the legality of the show, when a leading barrister said the gallery would al-

most certainly need a licence as it was being used as a sexual establishment.

Charles Salter, a specialist in obscenity law, said: "Most London boroughs have adopted the Miscellaneous Provisions Act of 1982 which deals with licensing establishments, and it sounds very much like the artist is using the premises as a sex establishment, in which case she would need a licence."

But Mr Chappell said he had checked with a lawyer who had assured him that the show was legal. "It's art and so it's allowed," he said.



TOMORROW  
IN YOUR  
5-SECTION  
INDEPENDENT



■ **CLOTHES  
TO DIE FOR:**  
what would  
you wear to your  
own funeral?  
THE MAGAZINE

■ **ROCK N'  
RAIL IN  
THE USA:**  
seeing America  
from  
the tracks  
TIME OFF

■ **FACT AND  
FICTION:**  
investigating  
Hercule Poirot's  
Devon  
TIME OFF

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Recycled paper made up  
41.4% of the raw material for  
UK newspapers in the  
first half of 1997.

# Trimble: 'Ulster deal is as good as it gets'

By Alan Murdoch  
in Dublin

THE ULSTER Unionist Party leader, David Trimble, yesterday moved decisively to break opposition from within his own ranks to the Northern Ireland Agreement.

Stung by the Orange Order's failure on Wednesday to provide endorsement of the deal, he told rebels that regardless of their attitude, backing for the accord would grow within the party.

Mr Trimble predicted that the party's ruling body, the Ulster Unionist Council, which holds a crucial meeting tomorrow, would provide stronger backing than the 2-1 vote in favour by its executive last Saturday.

He said "I am not contemplating [defeat] because it's perfectly clear we're not going to fail. This party is not going to abandon the opportunity that is there."

"Yes, there's worries about policing and prisoners, but rather than letting those difficulties mesmerise us, we will get them sorted out." He insisted the party had "got a good deal," and the Stormont Agreement was "as good as it gets."

Unlike Sunningdale and the Anglo-Irish Agreement, it would "reinforce the Union" and deliver change in the Irish Constitution. Wednesday's meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge, the ruling body of Northern Ireland's 60,000-strong Orange Order, decided to press the Prime Minister for more clarification of the terms.

Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, revealed she had intervened in an attempt to swing the Orange Order behind the agreement. She confirmed she had written to the organisation to spell out the issues at stake, and was waiting for its response.

Mr Trimble's weakest flank remains the failure of the majority of his parliamentary colleagues to support his position, with just three out of the nine other UUP MPs behind him.

He seized on yesterday's *Irish Times/Guardian* opinion poll showing only 14 per cent in the north against the deal. He said "people understand that this

offers a real chance for peace" and was "good for Unionism and bad for Republicanism".

Attempting to settle Unionist waverers, Mr Trimble claimed such a deal might not come around again for another generation. "Silence from Sinn Féin" since the Agreement meant they had had to accept the "legitimacy" of Northern Ireland he argued. A "clear linkage" had been made between decommissioning commitments and elected politicians taking office.

Elected Sinn Féin candidates would be entitled to enter the Northern Assembly, but he required them to address the issue on entering an administration. Mr Trimble claimed. He said he had Mr Blair's assurance that "this will be made effective."

This interpretation was later disputed by Sinn Féin's vice-president Pat Doherty.

Mr Trimble said he would be very concerned if Northern voters gave less than 60 per cent backing for the Agreement in next month's referendum. If that happened Unionists would have to have "a careful think."

In the *Irish Times/Guardian* poll the Agreement won 73 per cent backing in the north and 61 per cent support in the Irish Republic, with "No" votes of 14 per cent (north) and 20 per cent (Republic).

There was 81 per cent approval from Sinn Féin voters. 70 per cent from UUP supporters, with SOLP and Alliance both 93 per cent, while 56 per cent in the province believed there was a strong chance of a lasting peace.

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said he had received a mixed response on the Agreement from republicans. Some told him the changes should have come 40 years ago. Others were fearful and reaction ranged from outright hostility to nervousness.

■ **Army bomb experts** yesterday recovered an incendiary device from a shop in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. It had been spotted by a member of staff shortly after 2.30pm, police said. There was no warning and no claim of responsibility.

*Ireland Feature, page 18*



Something Moore: Installation technician Dave Bell cleans Redning Figure: Goujon 1956, by Henry Moore, one of 46 models included in an exhibition of the artist's work at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Near Wakefield, to mark the centenary of his birth. Photograph: UNP

# Asylum detention centres 'unsafe'

By Nicole Yeash

AN overhaul of immigration detention centres was promised last night after a Government watchdog warned current conditions were "unsafe" for the asylum seekers and suspected illegal immigrants held in them.

Immigration minister Mike O'Brien said the current system was a "mess", but said the future lay in more detention centres, more tightly controlled by staff.

The Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbotham, said conditions at Campfield House in Oxfordshire were "unsafe and unsound" because

there were no clear rules and sanctions for detainees, and no legal duties imposed on staff.

"It is the absence of enforceable rules of conduct governing the behaviour of detainees and staff which convinces us that detention centres are currently unsafe for detainees," he said.

"Until clear rules and obligations are established for people in detention and for the staff who look after them, the prospect of repeat disturbances at Campfield House will remain."

His main recommendations include: ■ **Expanding the detention system**

to cope with the increased number of detainees, keeping asylum seekers out of prisons

■ **Introducing judicial oversight** on all asylum requests so uniformity in detention lengths could be achieved, while opening up the possibility of appeal

■ **Reducing the period of detention** to the minimum possible

"I believe that prison is not the right place to hold asylum seekers and detainees," he said.

"Their status is more closely analogous to that of unconvicted prisoners, or civil prisoners, than to convicted or sentenced criminal prisoners."

Mr O'Brien admitted the current system was a "mess" adding the report was a blow to protest groups who want an end to the detention system.

"We admit that existing legislation is inadequate to deal with detention and we are addressing this in our review. The current system is a mess," he said.

"There is considerable pressure on the regime and we need to expand the number of detention centres. I accept that many of the criticisms in the report are aimed at the Home Office, while the private sector has been praised."

Mr O'Brien said the Gov-

ernment planned to change the relaxed hostel regime of the detention centres, described by Sir David as "aimless", into a more controlled, "structured" environment.

In a get-tough appeasement to middle England, he said new sanctions would be introduced, including withdrawal of privileges, use of photo identity cards and guidelines to allow all incoming mail for detainees to be opened by staff.

He added that a statement on asylum policy, part of a Home Office comprehensive spending review, would be available before the end of the summer session.

# Social workers suspended over abuse allegations

By Roger Dobson

SIX social workers have been suspended as a result of allegations made against them during the North Wales Child Abuse Tribunal.

The six, who work for a number of authorities in the region, have been suspended on full pay following evidence given

at the tribunal which has now completed its public evidence taking. More than 100 people were named as alleged abusers in the hearings, but only a handful remain working in the care system. It is understood that the six will face disciplinary investigations.

The suspensions, which have until now been kept confidential, will be seen as the first direct action as a result of allegations during the tribunal.

What could happen to other people named as abusers who no longer work in the care system is not known.

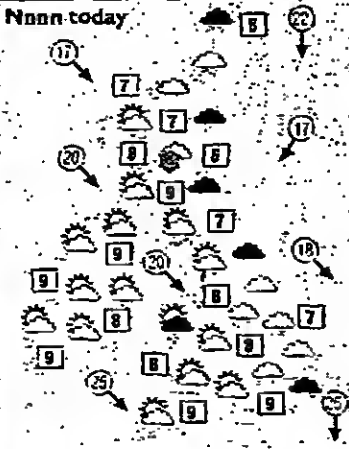
Tribunal chairman, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, has said that he will name names where appropriate in his final report,

due out in the summer. It is estimated that allegations were made against 140 people during the hearings at which 250 alleged victims of abuse gave evidence.

Some alleged abusers had more than one allegation against them, and in one case, there were in excess of 70 individual complaints.

The tribunal has also been urged by lawyers for the councils to use their final report to recommend that the terms and conditions of staff be changed so that disciplinary proceedings brought against people working with children should be completed, even when the alleged perpetrator resigns or refuses to attend hearings.

# WEATHER



The wintry weather will be at an end for most of us throughout the eastern mountains in Scotland will see further snow during today and it will still be cool for the time of the year in all parts. Eastern Scotland and England will have a cloudy day with showers of rain, but the rain will mainly peter out in south-east England during the afternoon. Northern Ireland, Wales and western parts of England will have a mix of sunny spells and well scattered showers.

**Outlook for the next few days**  
Saturday will see an improvement in the weather across the UK with temperatures recovering and only the odd shower to hold out for. However, there will be sunny breaks everywhere. Rain will arrive in Northern Ireland, south-west England and Wales in the early hours of Sunday, later clearing to sun and showers as the rain moves north and east to affect remaining parts of the UK, although north-east Scotland will remain mostly dry.

## British Isles weather

most recent available figures at noon local time  
C: cloudy; D: clear; F: fog; P: rain; S: snow; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; Sh: shower; Sh: showers; Sh: snow; Th: thunder.

Aberdeen	Sh	6-13	Edinburgh	Sh	6-13
Anglosey	F	7-15	Exeter	Sh	8-14
Armagh	F	7-15	Gloucester	Sh	7-15
Belfast	F	7-15	Hereford	Sh	7-15
Birmingham	Sh	7-15	Leeds	Sh	7-15
Bristol	Sh	7-15	London	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Manchester	Sh	7-15
Cardigan	Sh	7-15	Newcastle	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Oxford	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Plymouth	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Reading	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Southampton	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Stratford	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Swansea	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	York	Sh	7-15

## Air quality

London's readings

London	Good
Cardiff	Good
Exeter	Good
Gloucester	Good
Hereford	Good
Leeds	Good
London	Good
Manchester	Good
Newcastle	Good
Oxford	Good
Plymouth	Good
Reading	Good
Southampton	Good
Stratford	Good
Swansea	Good
York	Good

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High tides	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	05:47	6.8	18:03	6.8
Liverpool	02:35	6.7	15:13	6.4
Ammanford	11:02	11.7	23:18	11.4
Hull (Albert Dock)	10:12	7.9	22:37	7.7
Gosport	04:26	3.1	16:35	3.0
Dun Laoghaire	03:28	3.7	16:03	3.5

## Lighting-up times

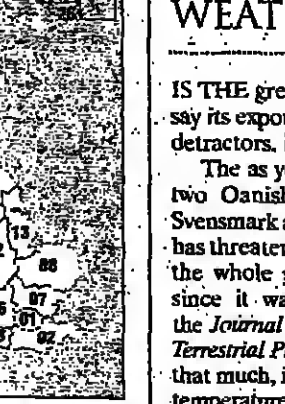
Location	20:30	06:15	Sun rises	06:01
Belfast	20:09	06:04	Sun sets	20:00
Bristol	20:10	06:05	Moon rises	00:30
Cardiff	20:11	06:06	Moon sets	00:29
Edinburgh	20:12	06:07		
London	20:13	06:08		
Manchester	20:14	06:09		
Newcastle	20:15	06:10		

## World weather

most recent available figures at noon local time

Aberdeen	Sh	6-13	Edinburgh	Sh	6-13
Anglosey	F	7-15	Exeter	Sh	8-14
Armagh	F	7-15	Gloucester	Sh	7-15
Belfast	F	7-15	Hereford	Sh	7-15
Birmingham	Sh	7-15	Leeds	Sh	7-15
Bristol	Sh	7-15	London	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Manchester	Sh	7-15
Cardigan	Sh	7-15	Newcastle	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Oxford	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Plymouth	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Reading	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Southampton	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Stratford	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	Swansea	Sh	7-15
Cardiff	Sh	7-15	York	Sh	7-15

## Atlantic chart, noon today



## Low W will move east. Low A will move slowly north and east. Low B will

remain to the east. High C will intensify.

# MICHAEL HANLON WEATHER WISE

IS THE greenhouse theory dead? No, say its exponents. But, according to its detractors, it is gravely ill.

The as yet little-publicised work of two Danish meteorologists, Henrik Svensmark and Eigil Friis-Christensen, has threatened to throw a spanner into the whole global-warming consensus since it was published last year in the *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*. The scientists claim that much, if not all, of the 0.5C rise in temperature seen across the globe in the past 100 years can be attributed to changes in the behaviour of the Sun, rather than to man-made pollution.

They tentatively postulated an elegant mechanism, to the effect that changes in the intensity of the solar wind - the spray of sub-atomic particles thrown out into deep space by the Sun - could affect the amount of cosmic rays entering the Earth's atmosphere. Cosmic rays are produced by exploding stars, and, the Danes say, may have an effect on cloud formation here on Earth. More solar wind equals less cosmic rays, equals less clouds, equals global warming, as clouds reflect sunlight.

In January, scientists at Cern, the European nuclear research centre near Geneva, proposed a £100,000 experiment to test the Danes' theory. Construct a box about a foot-square, fill it with gas of the same composition as the Earth's atmosphere, and zap it with artificial cosmic rays. If clouds form, theory proved. Man-made global warming dead and buried. Except it won't happen quite like that. The money needed to test this part of the Danes' theory is peanuts compared to the squillion-dollar greenhouse industry, but that is no guarantee that it will be awarded. Even if the cosmic ray-cloud connection is made, many people will choose to disbelieve, or ignore the data. There are a lot of vested interests in the Global Warming debate.

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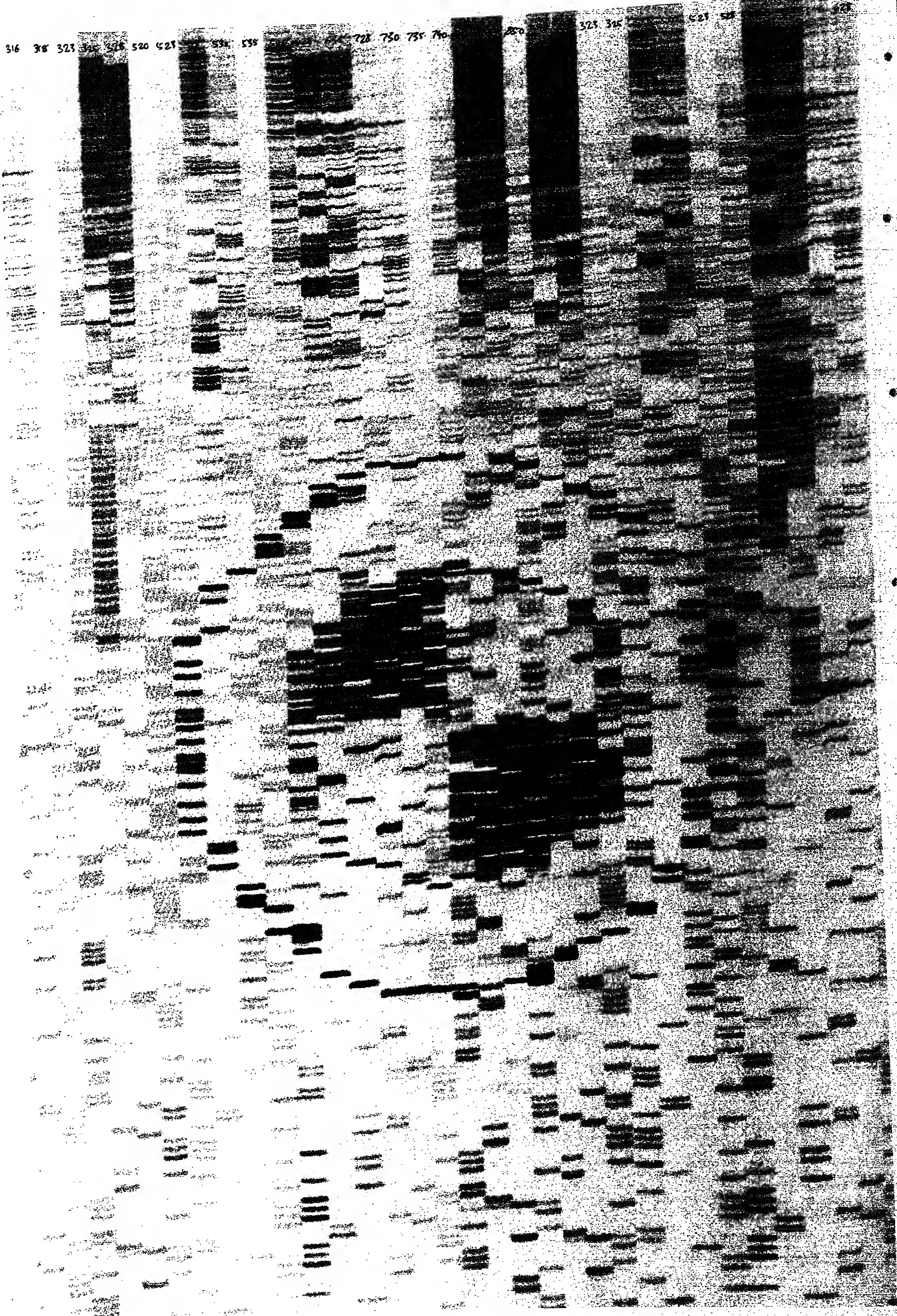
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## Diplomatic snub for Labour

THE British embassy in Washington raised eyebrows when it invited Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams to a St. Patrick's day lunch, but there is one political group which the embassy seems determined never to let inside its palatial Lutyens-designed building on Massachusetts Avenue. That group is the British Labour Party. "None of us has ever been invited to the embassy," said Keith Tarr-Whelan, the party's US chairman, to Pandora yesterday. "It is very strange. I always thought it was a bit stupid. The embassy's line is that they don't want to invite Brits there. They only want to invite Americans," Tarr-Whelan said. But he reckons that even on that front our diplomats are not too impressive. "My wife is US Ambassador to the United Nations on women's affairs, and she's never been invited to the embassy either."

## No 10's selective line up

PANDORA popped by 10 Downing Street's new web site which went on-line yesterday. There were impressive graphics of former prime ministers: Walpole, Macmillan, Douglas-Home, Wilson, Heath, Callaghan, Thatcher and Blair. But Paddy Ashdown will look in vain for any sign of Lloyd George (left) or any other Liberal prime minister. Hopefully, this site will be kept more up-to-date than similar ones. When Pandora visited the old Prime Minister's Office site yesterday, its latest information was from 27 February. New Britain, old press release.

## Empty Tory purse?

YOU may recall reading in this newspaper about the beleaguered Huntingdon Conservative Club located in John Major's constituency. The club went into liquidation shortly after the May election. Now the local Tory-controlled council has written off £3,160.84 in debt owed to it by the club. "They have done nothing illegal," said Huntingdon's local Liberal Democrat group leader, Terry Clough, to Pandora. "But when you consider how much the Conservative Party spends in this area on printed literature and propaganda - thousands and thousands of pounds - it makes people wonder why they can't afford to pay this debt. Now the ratepayers will have to make it good."

## A Titanic mistake

YESTERDAY the *Mirror* marked the anniversary of the *Titanic* by reprinting its original 86-year-old coverage of the catastrophe in which approximately 1,500 people died. The reprinted headlines included "Everyone Safe", "Morning of Suspense Ends in Message of Relief" and, just in case readers harboured even a trace of anxiety, "Every man woman and child on the great liner is safe". In retrospect, perhaps today's *Mirror* would have been wiser to have reprinted a later edition of its 1912 paper.

Pandora

## DAILY POEM

### From "The Ballad of Reading Gaol"

By Oscar Wilde

With sudden shock the prison-clock  
Smote on the shivering air,  
And from all the gaol rose up a wail  
Of impotent despair.  
Like the sound that frightened marshes hear  
From some leper in his lair.

And as one sees most fearful things  
In the crystal of a dream,  
We saw the greasy hempen rope  
Hooked to the blackened beam,  
And heard the prayer the hangman's snare  
Strangled into a scream.

And all the woe that moved him so  
That he gave that bitter cry,  
And the wild regrets, and the bloody sweats,  
None knew so well as I:  
For he who lives more lives than one  
More deaths than one must die.

This is our final selection from the expanded edition of the Penguin Classics anthology *Poetry of the 1890s* (Penguin, £8.99), edited by R. K. R. Thornton and Marion Thain. Wilde published his Ballad in 1898, the year after his release.

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David Walker on claims that Diana's funeral was the peak of national decadence

BLAIR'S Britain is "awash with sentimentality" and Diana, Princess of Wales - in life and in death - bears a lot of the blame. According to the Social Affairs Unit, the quirky conservative think-tank, the day of the princess's funeral was a peak of British decadence.

In its report published today, entitled *Faking It*, the unit says: "In that mob grief feeling was elevated above reason, caring above principles, personal gratification above commitment and propriety and the full extent of modern sentimentality made available for anyone with eyes to see."

According to the report, Britain has become over-sentimental about poor people, about black people, about the environment, about fiction and about animals. Digby Anderson, the unit's director, who writes about cooking for the *Speculator* magazine, is especially harsh about "food sentimentalists" who do not like to eat kidneys.

Sentimentality is all around us, even in the concert hall. The



Mob grief: The princess's funeral showed how feeling had become elevated above reason, the think-tank says

Photograph: John Voos

best composers used to make jokes to dilute the sentimentality of their music. But nowadays everyone is too serious, especially performers on period instruments who take themselves too seriously.

It is no coincidence that the flood of sentiment is at spate

when Labour is in power. Tony Blair is said to have elevated "the People over rank, tradition and history".

On his watch, children are being indulged more and fringe medicine has grown in popularity, leading to pseudo-diagnosis.

"Having tried homeopathy without success, why not have a shot at acupuncture, chiropractic, iridology, Bach's flower remedies? And so on down the slippery slope."

The Social Affairs Unit would like people stoically to accept they have an illness. "Sen-

timentality damages the practice of medicine when it interferes with an ability to make tough decisions. The only answer to the question so often asked by the afflicted - 'why me?' - is that, biologically speaking, it is health which is rare and extraordinary, and disease and

death that are the norm. As for Diana, among her many problems was that she had never been forced to read Edmund Burke, the 18th-century Whig writer and politician who argued that certain institutions should be covered with "pleasing illusions" and "decent drapery". She did not understand monarchy's necessary mystique - witness her referring to the Queen as her "mother-in-law".

Among Diana's other problems was her belief that duty and commitment are harmful and repressive. "In the therapeutic world in which Diana increasingly moved, one's only duty is to one's own feelings, their expression and fulfilment. If the world does not like it, too bad. You scream, you give vent to your anger, you throw yourself downstairs."

"This is literally infantilism, but it is part of what was being celebrated in Westminster Abbey on 6 September."

Suzanne Moore, page 17

Faking It edited by Digby Anderson and Peter Mullen: Social Affairs Unit, £15.95.

## Priest tells of abuse at home

A CATHOLIC priest told a court yesterday how he was sexually abused as a boy by the priest in charge of his orphanage.

The priest told Warwick Crown Court how Fr Eric Taylor, who is accused of abusing 17 boys, made sexual advances towards him while the pair were in a van together. Another victim, now aged 55, sobbed as he recalled how Fr Taylor had abused him while on a summer camp.

Fr Taylor, 78, of Aston by Stone in Staffordshire, denies 17 charges of indecent assault and five charges of buggery between 1957 and 1965 while he was in charge at the Father Hudson's Orphanage in Coleshill, Warwickshire.

A jury was told yesterday that a former resident at the orphanage had since gone on to become a practising Catholic priest.

The priest told the court how Fr Taylor had come to visit him while he was studying for exams in a classroom.

He said Fr Taylor had put his arm around him and made him feel uncomfortable.

On another occasion he described how he was abused while he was sitting in Fr Taylor's green Morris van, parked in a lay-by.

"In the course of conversation he took my right hand and slowly drew it towards himself between his legs," the priest told the court.

The priest reacted by pulling his hand away and making an excuse to leave.

Asked how he felt about the sexual advances he replied: "I think I was quite disappointed, bemused, hurt."

"Someone I had wanted to respect and trust betrayed that, I think."

Another man sobbed as he told the jury how he was lured into Fr Taylor's tent with the promise of alcohol and cigarettes.

He said that after consuming some alcohol with the priest he was told to perform an indecent act.

He added that he had since turned to drink in a bid to rid himself of the guilt he felt over the sexual abuse.

The court was told yesterday how boys were beaten by nuns when they complained about the sexual abuse they had endured at the hands of Fr Taylor.

They were then made to go to confession with Fr Taylor and forced to admit they had been telling untruths.

The trial continues.

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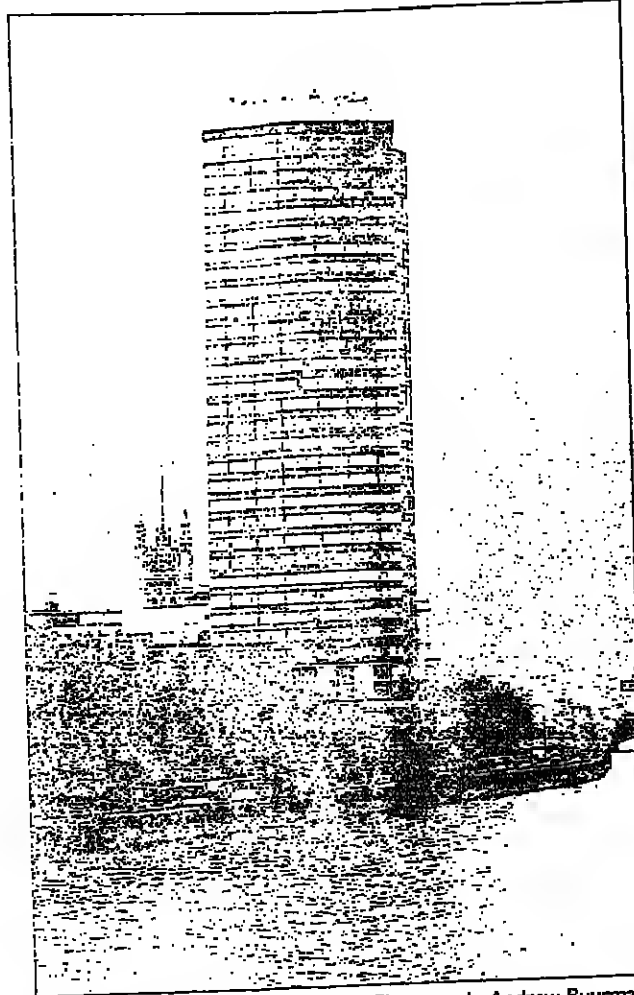
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'Monstrous': The Millbank tower Photograph: Andrew Buurman

## 'Ugly' buildings should be destroyed, says MP

By Andrew Buncombe

APPARENTLY unconcerned that he might be committing treason, a Labour MP yesterday cited Buckingham Palace as one of Britain's "ugly, grey" buildings that should be razed and replaced for the Millennium.

Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, suggested that eyesores in towns and cities around Britain should be knocked down and young, innovative architects be invited to design alternatives.

Launching his Millennium Destruction Challenge, he said: "Each of us knows of an architectural monstrosity which richly deserves to be eliminated. The Millennium is a perfect project for a fresh start."

Mr Sheerman, chairman of the campaign group Network for Industry, said there were scores of buildings that were ripe

for knocking down. In London he cited Battersea power station, the Millbank tower and the Department of the Environment's offices in Westminster. He also mentioned others around the country, including the Bull Ring in Birmingham.

Mr Sheerman said that the removal of Buckingham Palace would present the Royal Family with no problems as to where to live. "I would suggest that it

could be replaced by a beautifully designed building... created by a modern architect. I am sure Prince Charles would approve."

Whether Prince Charles or any other members of the Royal Family would like to see the destruction of Buckingham Palace, designed by John Nash in 1819, was unclear yesterday. A palace spokeswoman said: "Buckingham Palace is... owned by the state so I presume it would

need a decision by Parliament before it could be knocked down."

A spokeswoman for Prince Charles, who famously criticised architectural "carbuncles", said she was unsure if he would want to jump on this latest bandwagon. But she added: "He has been outspoken about bad architecture."

Mr Sheerman's idea did, however, receive support from Simon Jenkins, a member of the Millennium Commission. "I only wish [Mr Sheerman] had come up with it three or four years ago when the commission was looking for ideas," he said.

The architect Jan Kaplicky added: "I think it would be unprofessional to suggest knocking buildings down but the Government could commission... some beautiful things here and there. But when was the last public building commissioned in Britain - 30, 50 years ago?"

### Carve their names with pride

POST-WAR public sculptures long battered by the twin assaults of critics and vandals yesterday found a new champion as they were given listed status. Tony Banks, heritage minister, unveiled a set of 20 pieces of modern art gaining State recognition after years of grazing shopping centres and housing estates. Among those awarded the Grade II star are *Blind Beggar* and *his Dog*, by Elisabeth Frink, 1958;

the *Merchant Seaman's Memorial*, by Edward Maule and Charles Wheeler, 1952-55, both in east London; the *British Medical Association Memorial*, Tavistock Square, James Woodford, 1954; and *The Bull*, Alton Estate, Wandsworth, Robert Clatworthy, 1961. Outside London, Grade II listings include *Woman with a Fish*, Northampton, Frank Dobson, 1951; and *Epidaurus*, St Ives, Cornwall, by Barbara Hepworth, 1961.



'Ripe for removal': Battersea power station, in London

## British businessman found dead in China

A BRITISH businessman has been found dead in China, British embassy officials said yesterday.

The body of the man, who has not been identified, was found in a flat in the city of Qingdao, south-east of Peking. He is believed to have been killed last week but the circumstances of his death have not yet emerged. An embassy spokesman said that two Chinese people had been seen running from the flat on the night he died. The killing comes one month after an American engineer was killed in a hotel room in Guangdong province. A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "I can confirm a British businessman has been found dead in Qingdao and the local police are investigating." He refused to disclose whether the dead man's identity is known.

## Tories promise fresh future

THE Tories launched their local elections campaign yesterday promising a "fresh future" and insisting they had learnt the lessons of their election defeat. They urged voters to back the Tories in the poll on 7 May and end Labour "failure", high council taxes and "shoddy" services.

Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, admitted: "We know we have a long way to go in restoring the British people's trust in the party, but we are making progress." He said the party had won 66 council seats since the defeat last May.

## Heritage plans for Avebury

A MANAGEMENT plan to take one of Britain's most important prehistoric sites into the next millennium was launched yesterday.

English Heritage has drawn up measures to protect and promote the Avebury World Heritage Site in Wiltshire. The site, covering 22.5 square kilometres, which includes the famous Avebury stone circles, dates back more than 4,000 years. Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, yesterday visited Avebury to launch a draft plan. The organisation is asking anybody interested in the site to put forward their views.

## Trials of 'little belly-achers'

CHILDREN who complain of persistent tummy aches are more likely than others to suffer psychiatric disorders such as anxiety and depression in later life. Psychiatrists have found that children aged seven to fifteen with recurrent abdominal pain tended to come from anxious families and have neurotic mothers. At the age of 36, an unusually high proportion of them were found to suffer psychiatric disorders.

Dr Matthew Hotopf and colleagues from King's College School of Medicine, London, say in the *British Medical Journal*: "Little belly-achers do not grow up to be big belly-achers but do grow up to suffer from anxiety or depression." The study involved 3,637 children born in 1946 who participated in a Medical Research Council health survey. — Jeremy Laurence

## Safety claims for McDonald's

MCDONALD'S, the fast food chain, could face up to 10 claims from people who allegedly suffered serious burns from its hot drinks, it was disclosed yesterday.

Solicitors are hoping to secure joint legal aid for a test case, according to solicitor Malcolm Johnson, whose Cambridge-based firm is helping to co-ordinate the action. Mr Johnson alleged that some of the victims were scarred for life by scalding drinks. One case involves a five-year-old north London boy.

A McDonald's spokesman, Robert Parker, would not comment on possible legal action. "The safety of our customers and staff is of the highest priority for McDonald's," he said.

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# The painting that comes with sex thrown in



Painted lady: Angela Marshall displaying the setting for 'Fuckart and Pimp' in Bermondsey, south London

Photograph: David Rose

By Kate Watson-Smyth

A STAINED mattress lies at one end of a dingy gallery. The room is lit by the glow from a single red light bulb and by the bed stand an easel and a simple wooden chair.

This is the setting for Angela Marshall's 'Fuckart and Pimp' exhibition which is due to open in Bermondsey, south London, today.

It is on this dirty mattress that she is planning to "consummate" her art with the person who buys the painting. Resplendent in a leopard-print dress, with a Wonderbra and a large red hat, Ms Marshall said she was unconcerned by those who wished to moralise about what she was doing.

"This is real living art and I can do it any way I want to... sex is meaningless"

"I am doing this exhibition and it is about finding out about my sexuality and seeing what I will learn from this experience."

She did not seem to mind that Ms Lawson had impersonated her.

"Worse things can happen," she said. However, she was less impressed by what Ms Lawson had said in the name of her art.

"She said that," she gasped incredulously. "Now I'm getting really pissed. That's not what it's about at all."

Back in Newcastle, Ms Lawson was unrepentant. "I was told that Angela did not want to do interviews and so I agreed to pose as her. It was easy. I just said the kind of things I knew she would say," Ms Lawson said.

Ms Marshall was adamant that no one else knew what she was going to say and dismissed Ms Lawson with a flick of her gloved hand.

"I am just here to do my show and that is what I am concentrating on," she said.

to do it again and since then I have sold all my paintings in that way."

She says that sex is meaningless. "It's about an interaction between the person and the art and that is an important part of my work."

However, for several days it appeared that her work did not exist and that Ms Marshall herself was a figment of someone's imagination. Dreamt up by the Decima gallery to gain some publicity. For several days it was impossible to organise a time to interview Ms Marshall. She was always too busy, too tired. But

finally it was agreed that she would pose for photographs in Newcastle where she was "doing some work for the university".

"I have never done any work in this country before and I need to find out what is socially acceptable here," she said in a telephone interview. "It is about prostitution of the art and the artist. I will meet the people first and find out if they are attractive to me and if I can form a relationship with them. I don't mind having sex with them - it is all for the sake of the art."

Somehow it seemed hardly surprising to discover that this "Ms Marshall" was an imposter. Her real

## Museum urged to reveal grisly secrets

By Simon Tait

THE NATURAL History Museum is under pressure from academics to reveal its records of Aboriginal human remains, some of them obtained by body snatchers in macabre circumstances. But the museum is resisting, apparently because the archives are in a mess.

During the last century there was a lucrative trade in parts of bodies and sometimes whole bodies, particularly of Australian Aborigines which were of particular interest for scientists working on theories about racial development.

Stories of dead Aborigines being snatched from battle sites, of heads being swapped in mortuaries and bodies being disinterred and stripped of flesh at dead of night sound more like the story line from a Tom Sharpe novel than serious scientific research. A complete skeleton could change hands for £150 in 1870s.

The stolen head of William Lanne, "the last Tasmanian", is believed to have been smuggled on board a London bound ship sewn into a seal's carcass, but

the stench was so overpowering the whole lot was pitched overboard.

Peter Stone, of the World Archaeological Congress, described the NHM's reluctance to allow access as bizarre. "We are an organisation devoted to the wider knowledge and understanding of archaeology, but you can't discuss points relating to the global expansion of mankind until you know what's in the biggest collection of remains and who is controlling it," he said.

Last week the WAC repeated its request on behalf of an Aboriginal research group to see the list, and it has the support of the Australian High Commission, but the museum says researchers would find little of use in it.

"The specimens came to us from other British institutions with documentation in very variable condition, and some archives are very muddled and are even contradictory," said Robin Cocks, the museum's head of palaeontology. "Some specimens have no more than the name of the province in which they were found."

The collection is known to feature the skull of Tin Pot Billy, described as "a celebrated aboriginal murderer who was hanged" and the head of one of his alleged victims, acquired in 1880. There is the skull of Mary Ann, "wife of the king of Tomiki", from 1870.

There are more parts, including pickled penises and brains, and whole skeletons, but precisely what there is and in what quantity is far from clear.

Neil Chalmers, the museum's director, said: "We do give access to bona fide researchers and we would consider giving further access depending on the merits of the research on a case by case basis. We have to be conscious of the sensitivities of the indigenous people."

Mr Stone believes that the museum might simply be too embarrassed about the state of the archive to let academics see it. "It is a crazy attitude, and if archaeologists familiar with the subject had access and could bring their own knowledge to bear, they could be of enormous help in making sense of the archive," he said.

## Clapton song 'promotes violence'

A NEW Eric Clapton song in which he imagines murdering a lover has sparked a row in the UK and in America.

American women's groups have protested to Clapton's record company WEA about "Sick and Tired" in which the veteran guitar hero wonders whether he should blow a woman's brains out, singing: "Then you won't bother me no more."

American women's shelter group Peace at Home and the Anti-Defamation League in Boston have reacted with outrage to the song. Anti-Defamation League director Leonard Zakim has asked Clapton to change the lyrics and donate a portion of the album's proceeds to violence prevention programmes.

But his American spokeswoman, Ronnie Lippin, said the song's lyrics fitted the blues genre. In Britain, Rights of Women vice-coordinator Chanda Mulenga said: "If it is a situation where someone is promoting violence, then it is very distasteful."

Refuge organiser Clare Phillipson, of Westside Women In Need, said: "It is offensive and insensitive. It is too real and too raw for people."

"We have had to work with children whose mothers have been killed by men because they have been sick and tired of women. I disapprove strongly of lyrics like that. It is upholding the level of violence that unfortunately permeates a lot of relationships between men and women."

The track appears on *Plays in which* which is currently at number 14 in the British charts.

## Failure of faith healers let US children die

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

SCORES of children taken to faith healers in the United States by parents who abhorred orthodox medicine have died despite suffering from conditions which were treatable.

The darker side of spiritual healing, which is attracting a growing following in Britain - especially among celebrity footballers such as Glen Hoddle, the England manager, Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker and Les Ferdinand of Spurs - is revealed in a survey of sects in America by doctors from the South West Children's Hospital in Texas, published in the medical journal *Pediatrics*. From 1975 to 1995, they found that 172 children had died, all but three of whom would have benefited from medical intervention. In 140 of the cases the children suffered from conditions with a greater than 90 per cent chance of recovery with medical care.

The findings come in the wake of a study devised by a nine-year-old girl and reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, which debunked claims by practitioners of the healing technique known as "therapeutic touch" to be able to detect and manipulate the "human energy field".

There are more than 10,000 healers in the United Kingdom, the largest single grouping in alternative medicine. Ken Wyatt, director of the UK National Federation of Spiritual Healers, which has 6,500 members, said: "We would never advise anyone to have healing in preference to a visit to their doctor... We see our role as complementary to the medical profession. There is evidence that people will mend faster if they have healing as well as conventional treatment."

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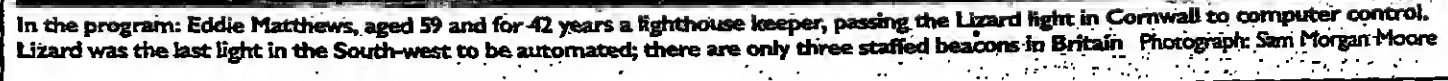


**By Fran Abrams**  
Political Correspondent

Corporate donations were on

Without such aid there would be either a "slum democracy" in which parties were underfunded, or do-

Andrew Puddephatt, director of Charter 88, told the committee that there should be spending limits at elections, and there should also be direct state aid for parties.



## By Fran Abrams

**By Anthony Bevins**  
Political Editor

(centre spread, tabloid section.)

هكذا من الآخرين



# Blunkett acts to halt school boycotts

By Ben Russell  
Education Correspondent

DAVID BLUNKETT, Secretary of State for Education, offered an olive branch to teachers yesterday in an attempt to avert a summer of industrial strife in schools.

He offered emergency talks with union leaders next week to cut classroom red tape in time to stave off a boycott of school bureaucracy which threatens to disrupt thousands of schools from next month.

Mr Blunkett said he hoped his action would eliminate the need for industrial action by 400,000 teachers.

He told members of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers in Scarborough he was willing to send guidance to all schools instructing heads how to cut out excess paperwork.

Nigel de Gruchy, NASUWT general secretary, said he hoped the move would avert the industrial action, which could mean teachers boycotting meetings and refusing to write lengthy reports. The proposed action threatens to disrupt the Government's plan to set literacy and numeracy targets for every school.

Mr Blunkett said he wanted "a common-sense solution to find the answers to a genuine problem". He added: "We will circulate to every school in the country what is not expected, what can be achieved and how we can work together. We need to be able to respond so that people do not need to produce a report every fortnight on how the targets are being achieved, so that we do not have people who find that in doing their job

they are excluded from being able to give the time to actually lift standards. We believe what we will achieve next week will run with the grain and will not evoke or need industrial action."

Both the National Union of Teachers and the NASUWT have voted for industrial action over workloads.

Mr de Gruchy said that the "devil lies in the detail". But he added that if government proposals met union demands the threat of action would be lifted.

Mr Blunkett also responded to increasing anger from teachers over violent and disruptive pupils. He said efforts to integrate children with physical disabilities or learning difficulties into mainstream schools would continue. But he said teachers would not be expected to cope with severely disturbed children.

He said: "Unacceptable behaviour is unacceptable behaviour, and it needs to be eliminated. We do not expect teachers to be social workers, we expect teachers to teach. We need to identify significant learning difficulties so that behaviour problems which arise out of failure to achieve can be dealt with."

He warned against problem pupils being unloaded on unpopular schools. "My fear is schools that are struggling to improve themselves, schools that have vacancies, schools that need the greatest help, are often the places that have children dumped on them."

Mr Blunkett also warned he would "come down as hard as nails" on parents who allowed their children to disrupt schools or abuse teachers themselves.

David Aaronovitch, page 17



Life of a megastar:  
The three ages of  
Dame Edna -  
represented by Lucy  
Hayden, Penelope  
Woodman and the  
Dame herself - in  
the preview of New  
Edna: The Spectacle  
at the Theatre Royal  
Haymarket, in  
London. The show  
opens on 21 April

Photograph: Geraint  
Lewis

## TUC names bad bosses

By Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

THE TRADES Union Congress yesterday "named and shamed" 10 employers - from household names to small family firms - which are allegedly denying workers their rights.

Abandoning caution ahead of the publication of a White Paper on "Fairness at Work", the TUC published a list of companies at which it levels a range of allegations from a refusal to allow union officials on their premises to intimidation.

Unions say they will target the employers as soon as the Government's proposals for a law on union recognition emerge in the White Paper, due out within the next month.

At the top of the list in the TUC's "Fairness not Fear" dossier, is Co-Steel of Sheerness and one of its main contractors MultiServ. Co-Steel is accused of threatening employees and undermining health and safety. Management would only say yesterday: "We are one of the best companies for employee relations, not one of the worst."

Allied Domecq, which owns 4,000 pubs across Britain, al-

legedly imposed "disgraceful" conditions on managers who are only allowed up to three days' paid leave if a spouse dies.

The Midland Bank has been targeted, because of its withdrawal of union recognition for managers, and Kruger Tissues of Caernarfon was accused of dismissing an employee for taking too much time off following the death of his wife and baby.

Newsquest, a local newspaper owner, has derecognised the National Union of Journalists has been derecognised. The group said that 70 per cent of employees owned shares in the company.

Union rights have also been denied at Sebón Bakery, part of the British Bakeries group. Another firm, Melting, a machine engineering company based near Leeds, denied there were serious health and safety concerns at the plant. Relyon Bedding of Wellington near Taunton, is accused of forcing employees to work harder for less money. More than half the workers at Sanders Coaches of Holt, Norfolk, were said to be members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, but recognition was refused.

## CJD sufferers 'need more support'

A CONFERENCE on Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease yesterday heard repeated calls for more to be done to help sufferers and their families.

Experts said medical staff often did not know how to approach the degenerative illness.

Delays in diagnosis can add to the trauma and even after CJD is suspected many families struggle to get help from cash-strapped social services departments, the specialists told the conference.

The conference, at Warwick University, was organised by the CJD Support Network. It

has been working with social services chiefs to prepare national guidelines to ensure help is available.

"At the moment it depends on where you live," said conference organiser Clive Evers.

The network is also hoping to introduce guidelines for GPs later this year.

"There is a difficulty in diagnosis and this disease has got to be treated immediately," said Gill Turner, a support worker. "Assessment procedures can take three to six months and some of our patients are dead in that time."

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# Teething troubles end with a filling finale



STEPHEN GOODWIN  
**Everest Diary**  
Base Camp

THE blues and oranges of tents spread over the rubble heap of Base Camp looked almost homely as we descended from the Khumbu Icefall. After several hours winding beneath impending ice cliffs and treading warily over aluminium ladders bridging crevasses dropping all the way to Hades, the relief that you're through is considerable.

We have just returned from two nights at Camp One, which is situated above the Icefall at over 6,000m. If our Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions' Ever-

est expedition goes to plan, we will make another acclimatisation trip in four or five days' time, this time to Camp Two at the head of the Western Cwm or perhaps higher, and then the summit bid in three or four weeks.

So that makes another four runs through the Icefall, one of the most dangerous stretches in climbing Everest from the Nepal side. Lord Hunt, leader of the first successful ascent, summed it up well when he wrote: "An Icefall is a frozen cascade of ice. The Khumbu Icefall is indeed a monster of the species."

Climbing through it - often clipped to fixed lines, for not many feet pass before you are stepping or jumping over some deep slit - one can become lost in awe at the beauty of the massive ice sculptures. But when suddenly you pass into cold shadow you look up and see a great blue bulge hanging at an



Step by step: Winding through the Khumbu Icefall, you see crevasses dropping all the way to Hades

on the 1921 British reconnaissance expedition. Cwm is a Welsh word for a high, dead-end valley. Mallory must have thought it was a cwm par excellence, with Everest on the north side. Lhotse, another 8,000m peak at its head, and Nuptse, just under the magic figure, on the south side. As we watched, small avalanches were constantly cascading from the slopes. In 1921 it was believed the Icefall was an insurmountable barrier.

However, for two members of our team - the stockbroker Rob Owen and our doctor Sundee Dhillon - the day was to be more than one of mountain reverence. One of the more painful perils of high-altitude climbing is a bad tooth. A major side filling that Rob had had done in Japan was just not up to the Himalayas and popped out, leaving Sundee with a challenge - only his third ever shot at dentistry, and at 6,000m in snow and with only a rudimentary kit.

Watched by the rest of us, Sundee performed with aplomb, momentary doubts about whether the filler would set vanished after five minutes when it turned to rock, with Rob as relieved as if he had just survived another round with the Icefall.

impossible angle, you understand why the place has been a Sherpa widow-maker.

Despite the thin air you hurry on. I certainly hurried in places, and pulled hard on the jumars to climb a couple of ice

cliffs - a jumar is a device carried by every Everest climber; it will slide up a rope but not slip back. So by the time I reached the lip of the Icefall and began the walk to our tents at the opening to the Western

Cwm every step was a weary effort. How will I manage at higher altitude?

But even so my five hours from Base Camp was bettered in our team only by the super-fit Canadian, Byron Smith,

and familiarity will make it quicker next time.

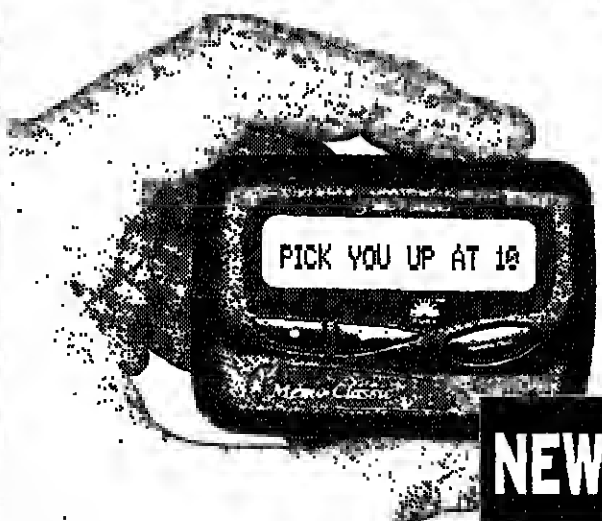
Next morning we walked far enough into the Western Cwm to get a good view of Everest's awesome south-west face. For all the photographs I've seen of

this aspect, first climbed in 1975 by a strong team under Chris Bonington, it was still a surprise to see so much stark dark rock and so little snow. The cwm itself was named by the ill-fated George Mallory

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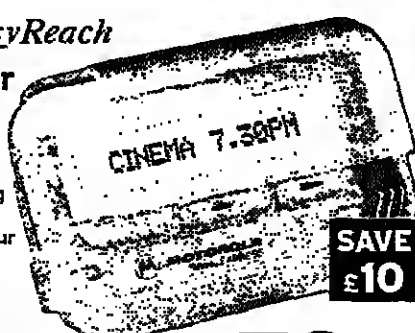


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Model: Motorola Memo Express Was £69.99



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# Blair ventures on the Net with No 10 web site

By Charles Arthur  
Science and Technology Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday announced the arrival of the information revolution, unveiling a web site on the Internet for No 10 Downing Street and insisting that "it is vital that Britain leads the way so that we can be Europe's pioneer in what is now known as the information age".

There was no evidence of irony from the man who admitted in an article for Rupert Murdoch's *Sun* newspaper that he wrote all his speeches in long-hand, and that his skills with a computer lagged behind his colleagues' because he "very rarely" used one.

Launching the web site on a visit to a library in Croydon, south London, he said it "highlights the tremendous potential of information technology for bridging the gap between government and the people".

Potential yes, but reality may be delayed. The site, at <http://www.number-10.gov.uk>, offers an object lesson in bad web page design. It is utterly reliant on graphics - so for the normal Internet user with a telephone connection it is much more time-consuming and expensive to read. More experienced designers always offer readers the chance to read pages in text form.

Nor was there any apparent embarrassment that it has taken almost four years for Britain's leader to catch up with the United States President (www.whitehouse.gov has been running since October 1994), nor at the fact that the Prime Minister's much-touted "cyberspace" by members of the public will in fact lack even the spon-



Tony Blair launching the site Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

sanity of Prime Ministers' Questions in Parliament, where members can ask follow-up questions.

Instead of responding interactively to questions posed on-line, Mr Blair will deal only with those sent in four days before the 29 April interview. Even those will first be vetted by Sir David Frost before being put to Mr Blair.

Sir David said he liked the idea of the first prime ministerial interview on the Net. "It will be a first for me as well. The public will be in sole charge of devising the questions, and I will be in sole charge of deciding which ones to put to the Prime Minister," he said.

At yesterday's launch, Mr Blair said that "it is vital that political leaders try to keep in touch with the people that elected them". However, that may be easier said than done. Yesterday attempts by *The Independent* to access the Downing Street site's "open

discussion" area ended in failure. The server appears to be not available.

Black people in the US are less than half as likely to have a computer or access to the Internet than white people, even after allowing for differences in income and education, according to a new scientific study published today.

Writing in *Science* magazine, Donna Hoffman and Tom Novak of Vanderbilt University said: "If a significant segment of our society is denied equal access to the Internet, US firms will lack the technological skills needed to remain competitive. Employment opportunities and income differences among whites and African Americans may be exacerbated, with further negative consequences to the nation's cities."

Their study found that while 73 percent of white students owned a home computer, only 32 percent of black students did.

# Laptop computer deal puts teachers in information age

By Ben Russell  
Education Correspondent

MORE than 9,000 teachers will have access to laptop computers under a £23m package announced yesterday by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education.

The move is designed to put teachers - many of whom have been shown in surveys to know less about information technology than their pupils - in the "vanguard of the information age", according to Mr Blunkett.

"They need to be able to inspire young people and show that they too can use IT," he said. He added that he wanted teaching staff to become familiar with the latest multimedia technology.

He told the conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers in Scarborough that teachers should take advantage of lesson plans and other voluntary guidance which the government is making available on the Internet.

Mr Blunkett said some 4,000

schools would benefit from £257m in government cash plus another £250m as a result of public/private partnerships.

He said giving teachers portable computers "helps their confidence and their teaching and helps them to organise their work so as to use more effectively the time they spend with their pupils."

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, said "We would rather have money in classroom teachers' pockets than sitting on head-teachers' laps."

مكتبة الامم



# Berlusconi loses his grin as power slips away

By Anne Hanley  
in Rome

IT SHOULD have been a crowning moment. Four years after creating a mainstream political party from scratch in weeks, and leading that party to an election victory, Silvio Berlusconi climbed onto a stage-decked out for a Forza Italia anthem, to address his Forza Italia party.

"Our critics call Forza Italia the party that doesn't exist," said Mr Berlusconi. "Suddenly, and unequivocally, however, here we are. It exists, it keeps going, and it is growing."

But upbeat as the media tycoon-turned-politico was, nothing could hide the tension behind what is the first, and may be the last, national congress held by the political brainchild of one of Italy's most successful entrepreneurs.

"He's a loose cannon," said Forza Italia founding member Tiziana Parenti as she stormed out of the party one day before the congress. "It's a virtual party, a party of yes-men, a Kálfu-castle."

Ms Parenti, a former magistrate, is not the only key personality to have left Forza Italia over the past few weeks. Intellectuals and Euro-MPs, former generals and journalists have deserted what looks increasingly like a sinking ship, irked not so much by Mr Berlusconi's high-handed managerial attitude as by his habit of making contradictory decisions in rapid succession.

The latest example was his reneging - in an interview in one of the many magazines he owns - on an all-party groundplan to introduce a French-style presidential republic in Italy. This

week he opted for a German system. Moreover, he mooted bringing back a proportional voting system to replace the first-past-the-post system which he has always championed.

To the congress, Mr Berlusconi explained that all he wanted to do was open the topic of reform up to debate, giving party members an opportunity to mull over alternatives - this after a parliamentary committee of which he was a vocal member spent two years deciding on the best recipe.

For the other parties which make up the centre-right Freedom Front coalition, also headed by Mr Berlusconi, the change of heart came as the latest in a series of blows struck by their unpredictable friend. When Gianfranco Fini, leader of the National Alliance party and Mr Berlusconi's closest political ally, walked into the Forza Italia congress yesterday, he was not smiling.

Since his triumphant entrance into politics in 1994, Mr Berlusconi's trademark grin has turned into a grimace. Gone are the days of the *miliardario ridere*, the laughing billionaire, with his sweeping utopian visions of the kind so familiar to devotees of the afternoon soaps with which his three national television channels abound; at the beginning of his political adventure Mr Berlusconi had no qualms about promising to safeguard "a free society... where there is no fear, where generosity, dedication, solidarity and love of work take the place of social envy and class hatred".

Above all, he pinpointed the former Communist Party - now the leading element in the Prime Minister Romano Prodi's coalition government - as his, and Italy's, worst enemy, a

deadly threat to free enterprise. The market economy had allowed Mr Berlusconi to accumulate a television empire, the country's largest publishing house, a huge construction firm and the AC Milan football team. Left-wingers in power, he implied, would prevent other honest, hard-working Italians from reaching these heights.

A public exhausted by corruption enquiries and generations of dodgy politicians lapped it up. Berlusconi had not yet had a chance to display his own political ineptitude.

Through an ill-fated seven-month period in government in 1994, and a hard-knocks experience in opposition since, Mr Berlusconi has lowered his sights. Keeping the Reds in check remains a driving ambition - long after Italy's Communist Party threw off its last vestiges of Marxism. But keeping himself out of the law courts is also a priority, as is clinging on by his fingernails to his hold over the opposition leadership.

He may, however, be shoot-

ing himself in the foot in his rush to achieve them. By evoking a return to a proportional system, Mr Berlusconi was pandering to the Northern League, the devolution-seeking party which was briefly allied with Forza Italia but only long enough to knock the Berlusconi government out of power in December 1994 in an unedifying display of power-play.

Mr Berlusconi's memory for such humiliations is obviously short. Not so Mr Fini's. Moreover, Mr Fini is not budging from his demands in the constitutional reform field. And these include a French-style presidential system.

If Mr Berlusconi hopes the Northern League's visceral loathing of the Milan magistrates who are digging into the shadier side of his business interests will ensure he retains his parliamentary immunity he is mistaken. By dealing a death blow to his crumbling opposition, he may find himself out of the political world altogether, and well within reach of the law.

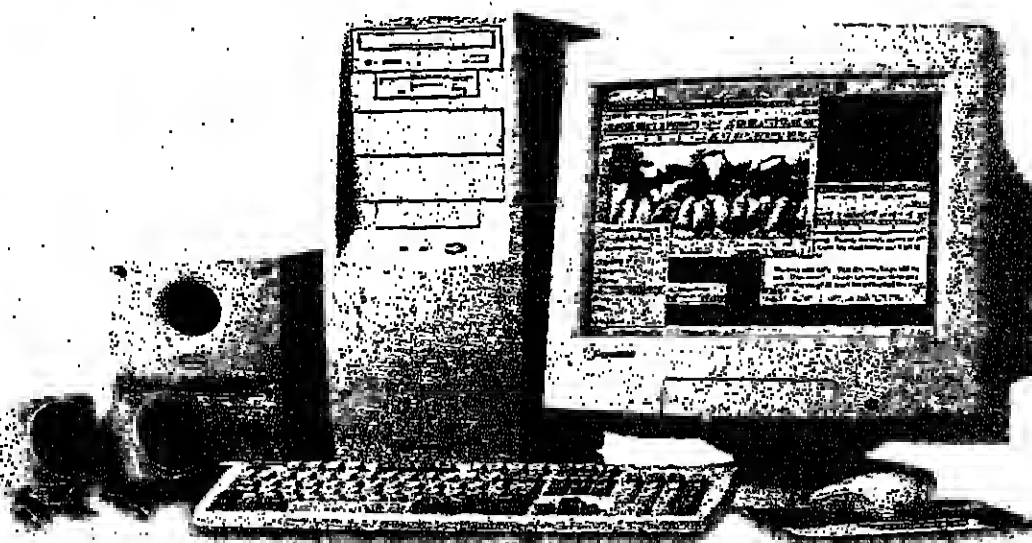


One hit wonder: Berlusconi is showing the strain as Forza Italia hits the ropes

Photograph: Andras Bankuti/Reuters

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### 737 jets to be rewired

TAKING a further step to improve air safety in the aftermath of the TWA jumbo jet crash off Long Island in 1996, authorities in America want all but the newest 737s flying in the US to be rewired. The 737 is the world's most popular commercial airliner. The order, issued by the Federal Aviation Authority, would affect 1,140 aircraft in the US. Similar instructions could follow for European carriers. A week ago the National Safety Transport Board issued a non-binding recommendation for rewiring programmes that could apply to all kinds of Boeing jets and even Airbus models. Carriers and Boeing have 40 days to comment. Airlines would have one year to comply.

— David Osborne, New York

### Drug lords profit from Cup

INTERNATIONAL drug cartels plan to flood Western Europe with narcotics this summer to cash in on the influx of football fans for the World Cup competition in France, a senior UN official said. Pino Arlacchi, executive director of the UN's drug control programme said yesterday that drug cartels were co-operating to exploit market opportunities. "For example... Colombia's drug cartels are linking up with the Russian Mafia to take advantage of the influx of people in Europe for soccer's World Cup," he said. — AP, Washington

### Sick cartoon back on TV



"POKEMON", the cartoon taken off the air after hundreds watching it became ill, was back yesterday in a toned-down version. On 16 December at least 700 viewers - mostly children - were rushed to hospitals with symptoms ranging from nausea to convulsions. An inquiry discovered that one scene, in which the screen shifted in ultra-rapid succession between bright red and blue, was to blame.

— AP, Tokyo

### Mass grave exhumed

FORENSIC experts unearthed 19 bodies from graves in an eastern enclave formerly held by rebel Serbs, a government official for missing persons said. The bodies were dug up from a site alongside a Catholic graveyard in Beli Manastir, on the north-eastern tip of the border with Hungary. — AP, Zagreb

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# Paula Jones set to appeal sex-case ruling

**By Mary Dejevsky**  
in Washington

PAULA JONES was expected to break two weeks' silence yesterday to announce that she was pursuing her sexual harassment case against President Bill Clinton to appeal, in spite of pessimistic legal assessments of her chances. Her appeal will be backed by the right-wing Rutherford Institute, which funded her original case.

Ms Jones's civil lawsuit against Mr Clinton was dismissed on 1 April by an Arkansas judge who ruled that she had no case against the President, even if her accusations were true. According to Ms Jones, Mr Clinton had invited her to a hotel room, dropped his trousers and asked her to perform oral sex: she refused.

After lengthy pre-trial hearings, Judge Susan Webber Wright decided Mr Clinton's alleged behaviour,

while "boorish and offensive", was not sufficient to support a claim for sexual harassment and that Ms Jones had suffered no psychological or professional damage. Mr Clinton was governor of Arkansas at the time of the alleged incident eight years ago and she was a state employee.

Ms Jones was said to have been shocked and distraught by the dismissal of the case, which had been

due to come to court on 27 May. Among the factors believed to have been considered by Ms Jones and her legal team were the record of the court circuit that would hear an appeal (the eighth circuit, based in St Louis), and the political impression that would be created if she abandoned her case. Mr Clinton's supporters have argued that her motive in bringing the case was largely political and that she was being used

by right-wingers who wanted to discredit a Democratic president.

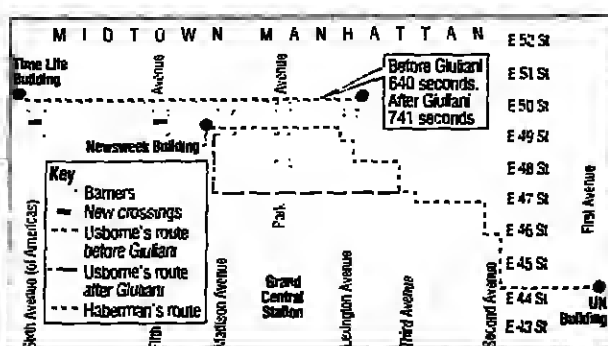
Ms Jones's lawyers are expected to argue that many of the facts that emerged during the pre-trial investigation were disputed and, as such, should have been presented to a jury rather than being dismissed outright by the judge. Ms Webber Wright's ruling, however, was widely praised in legal circles for its clarity and incisiveness, and the odds on its be-

ing overturned were judged slim. Even if Ms Jones is granted leave to appeal the case will not have the political drama of the original lawsuit. It will focus on legal technicalities and proceedings could drag on beyond the end of Mr Clinton's presidency two and a half years hence.

Meanwhile in Washington, the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who is investigating charges of criminal wrongdoing by Mr Clinton

in relation to the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas and an alleged relationship with the White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky, says he will not take up a position at Pepperdine University in California. The job offer had exposed Mr Starr to accusations of political bias because the university's chief benefactor, Richard Scaife, is a fierce critic of President Clinton and has made donations to anti-Clinton projects.

# How the mayor made me cross in Manhattan



**I** GIVE up. For months I have been doing my damndest to get arrested for jay-walking outside my office. If not arrested and thrown into solitary, then at least fined. Even a harsh ticking off would have worked. My reasoning was simple: suffer terrible punishment for crossing Madison Avenue at the wrong moment and at the wrong place and then explode with indignation in this diary.

It was just before Christmas, when our brilliant (some say crazed) mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, started messing about with one of the great delights of Manhattan: its walkability. Compared with almost any other American metropolis this seething isle is a pedestrian paradise. A lunch appointment 20 blocks away? Give yourself time — at a speedy

## NEW YORK DIARY



David Usborne

pace, say a block a minute – and walk it. If you do not like the immediate scenery, look at the people.

Here is an important thing to understand about walking from A to B in Manhattan, where the avenues (running north-south) and streets (west-east) are mostly laid out on a grid system. Or rather, it is not

important at all, but a pet fixation of mine. Your journey will be far more efficient, if it can be zig-zagged. If B is a straight shot from A — let us say they are both on Madison — you will be impeded repeatedly by traffic moving on the cross-streets. But if reaching B requires some rights and lefts, you are in much better shape. The

name of the game is to see if you can complete the journey without having to stop for cars at all.

Over the months I have perfected this, walking from the United Nations on 1st Avenue and 44th St to this office on 49th and Madison. Essentially this is an east-to-west journey. But I also have a five-

block south-north margin to play with. Rather than wait to cross an avenue if the traffic is moving, I can skitter north a block or two until the avenue traffic is halted. And cross.

Then along came Mr Giuliani and his clever plan to ease gridlock at the peak of Christmas shopping. Erect steel barriers at the busiest midtown

intersections, he decreed, and force pedestrians to cross them on one side only. The other side would be pedestrian-free, to allow traffic turning into the avenues to flow more freely.

there and mostly, it seems, in the immediate vicinity of this office. And at every barrier stands a policeman watching for jaywalkers and strolling reporters wanting to get arrested like me. Anyway, my whole system for zig-zag non-stop foot-travel in New York is, needless to say, in tatters.

The answer is no, at least not until this Sunday. That's when the Rockefeller Ice Rink will take the gilded statue of Prometheus watching over it, will at last close for the season. From then until next October, the rink will be home to cafe tables, umbrellas and palms in huge garden boxes. And summer really will be here.



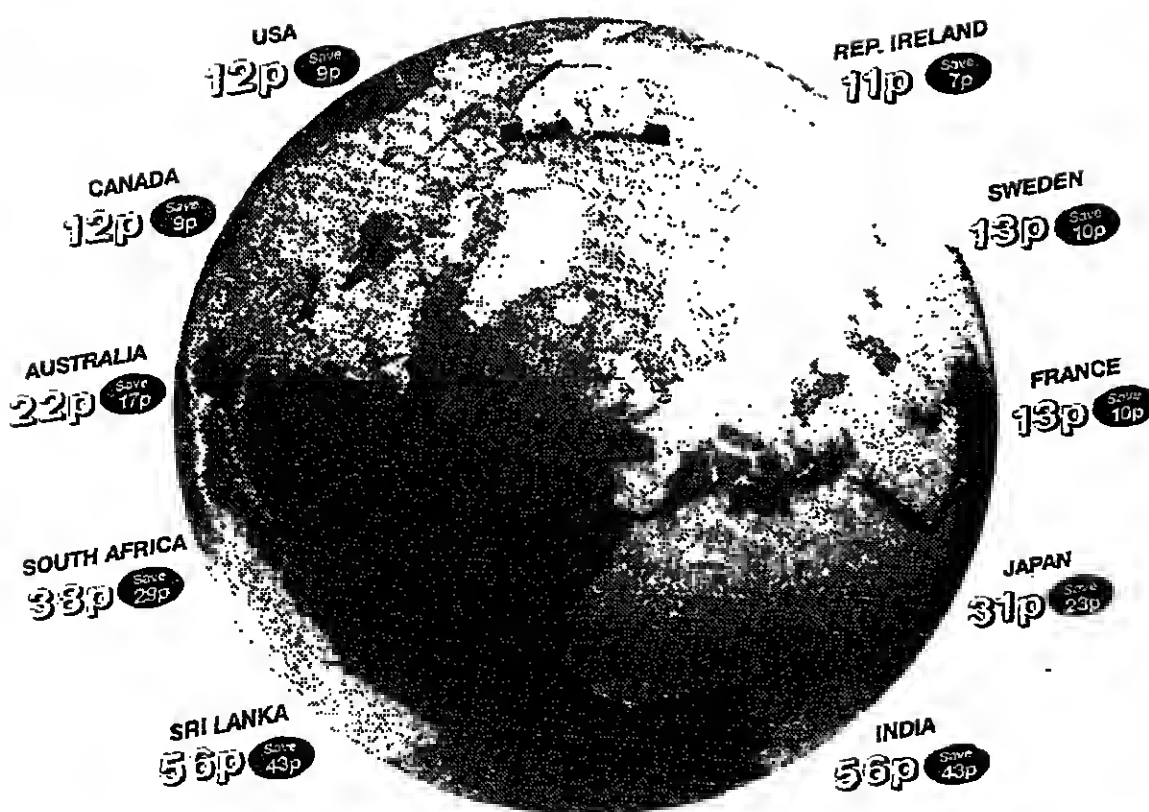
**Lingering ice:** Skaters at the Rockefeller Center prove it is still winter in New York

Photograph: Charles Knight/Rex Features

**N**OW I find vindication in Clyde Haberman's regrettably NYC column in today's Metro Section of the *New York Times*. Just look at this "expert," who is possibly even more barmy than I, has ascertained that thanks to the barriers and, if you please, two new pedestrian crossings instituted by the mayor in the middle of the 49-50th St blocks on Fifth Avenue and Sixth—yes, the middle—it now takes 101 seconds longer to make a journey from the north-west corner of 50th and Sixth to the north-east corner of 50th and Lexington. That is 741 seconds compared with 540 seconds—or 16 per cent longer. And for what? If the car drivers are happier I have not exactly heard them footing their horns for Rudy.

**I**f you are still trying to digest the notion of pedestrian crossings mid-block, you are not alone. This is not just not meant to be in Manhattan. As Mr. Hieberman notes, "The fact of some of Manhattan's most famous intersections—a part of town that is New York to much of the world—has now been dramatically altered." I was forced onto the 5th Ave mid-blocker on my way yesterday to the Rockefeller Center. I had one mission. Had winter indeed ended in New York and could summer formally be declared begun? The answer is so, at least not until this Sunday. That is when the Rockefeller for Rink, with the gilded statue of Prometheus watching over it, will at last close for the season. From then until next October, the rink will be home to cafe tables, umbrellas and palms in huge garden boxes. And summer really will be here.

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## Japanese village waits nervously for Yeltsin

By Richard Lloyd Parry  
in Tokyo

THERE is a word in Japanese for the atmosphere surrounding Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan this weekend, and the man from the tourist association in Kawana, the tiny seaside village where the president will be staying, leaves no doubt what it is. *Meiwaku*, *meiwaku*, *meiwaku!* he says. "I want to shout it out loud! We locals are sick and tired of this - why couldn't they have their meeting in Tokyo?"

*Meiwaku* means nuisance, bother, irritation and inconvenience. In a society which values order and predictability above all things, creating a *meiwaku* is one of the worst things you can do.

To Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yeltsin's visit is something of a coup, a chance to defrost a relationship which has been on ice since the end of the Second World War. Despite being near neighbours, the two countries have no peace treaty and little trade as a result of a lingering dispute over the Kuriles, a chain of desolate islands seized by Stalin at the end of the war.

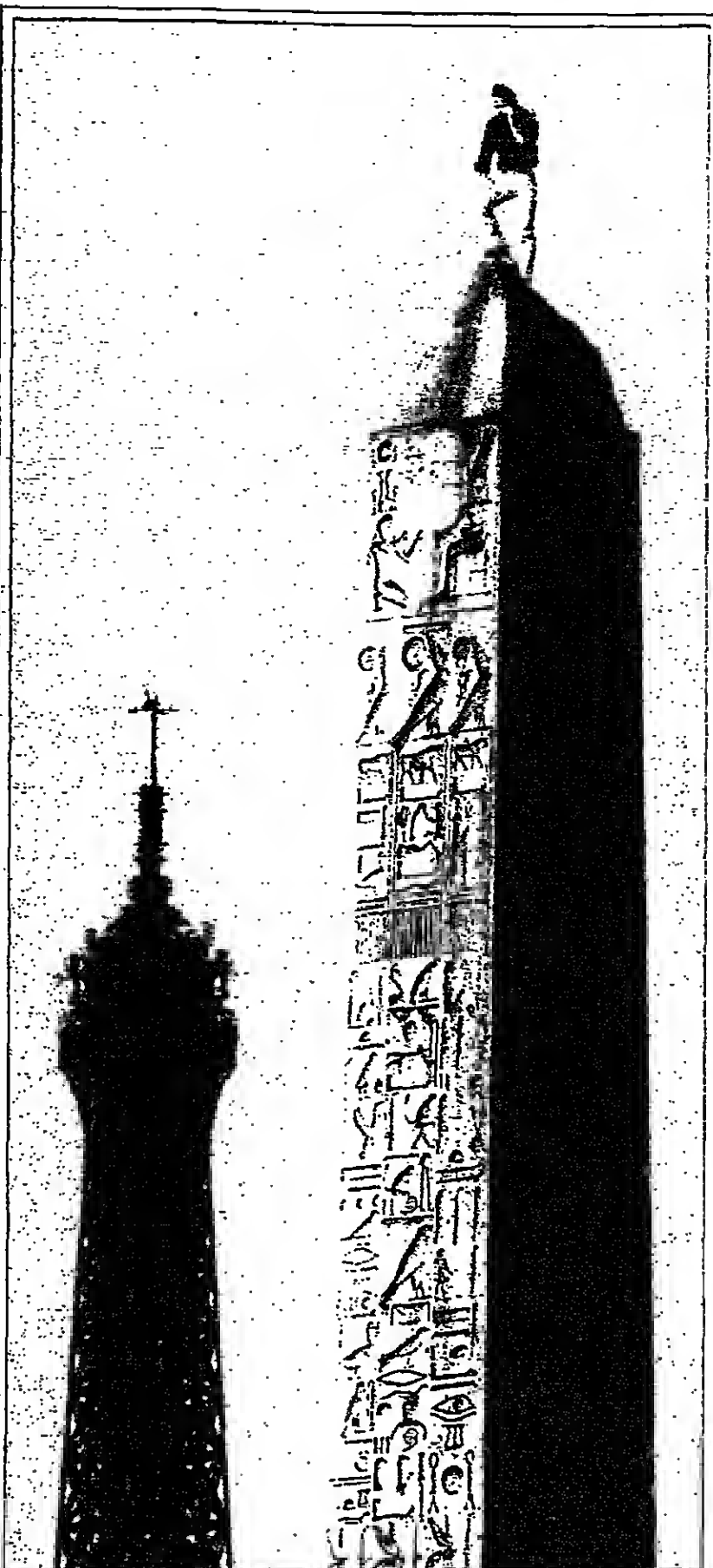
But to everyone else, the Russian visit is a source of bafflement, anxiety and trepidation. With his abrupt changes of mind, uncertain health and volatile domestic situation, Mr Yeltsin is as un-Japanese and *meiwaku*-laden as it is possible to imagine. Prominent among the anxieties is Mr Yeltsin's health. A distinguished Japanese heart surgeon has been put on stand-by in case the volcanic springs in which Mr Yeltsin and Mr Hashimoto are hoping to take a dip prove too much for his much-mended heart. But there is an even more basic concern: will the notoriously unreliable Mr Yeltsin turn up? It is almost certain now that he will, though memories are fresh of

the occasions in 1992 and 1993 when two presidential visits were cancelled after disagreement over the Kuriles. This time, thanks to the efforts of Mr Hashimoto, the atmosphere is warmer, although there was a panic last week when some confusing signals started coming out of Moscow. Bugged down in the Duma, which was stubbornly rejecting his choice of prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, Mr Yeltsin postponed his visit to this Saturday and Sunday.

If thoroughness is the great strength of Japanese officialdom, inflexibility is its weakness. The proposed venue - the Kawana Hotel, south-west of Tokyo, where Marilyn Monroe honeymooned with Joe DiMaggio - had turned away guests for the duration of the original visit. Suddenly, it had to cancel 600 reservations made for this weekend. Of three weddings, one could not be postponed - bride and groom will pass through metal detectors as they arrive to be married.

The 10 cherry trees specially transplanted for the delight of Mr Yeltsin's wife have, in the past few days, shed their famous blossoms. The rooms prepared for visiting journalists in the smaller hotels sit empty during one of the busiest weeks of the month. "We were turning down other guests and welcoming the media - now they refuse to pay their cancellation fee," says one irate hotelier. "There are traffic jams because of all the restrictions on cars. It doesn't matter who Yeltsin is, it won't do our village any good."

The poor traffic flow will help in one respect. As the robbers of the Kuriles, Russians are the special enemies of Japan's small but noisy right wing, who drive constantly around Tokyo blaring anti-communist slogans. Kawana has the advantage of narrow and restricted access by road. It should be enough to deter all but the most determined nationalists.



Spiderman: Alain Robert makes a mobile phone call after climbing to the top of the 23 metre high Luxor obelisk in the Place de la Concorde, Paris yesterday. He was later arrested for the stunt. Photograph: Michel Euler/AP

## Court shown Botha's apartheid era hit-list

By Mary Braid  
in South Africa

A HIT-LIST of enemies of the apartheid state drawn up by PW Botha's State Security Council was presented to a South African court yesterday by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as part of its case for subpoenaing the former president.

Appearing before a black judge in the courtroom at George, on the south-east coast, Mr Botha, 82, the former custodian of apartheid, who is charged with defying an order to appear before the TRC, is no doubt well aware that South Africa has changed. But the list, drawn up in 1986, was another reminder.

Many of those he targeted for surveillance and detention - including former Archbishop Desmond Tutu, now chairman of the TRC, Arthur Chaskalson, president of the Constitutional Court, Sidney Mufamadi, safety and security minister, and Dullah Omar, the justice minister - now run the country.

Paul van Zyl, the commission's executive secretary, presented the list as evidence that Mr Botha's State Security Council (SSC) sanctioned killings and torture. The presentation followed the failure of the TRC's bid earlier this week to avert a racially divisive trial of the elderly Afrikaner leader.

Mr van Zyl read old state documents ordering the "identification and elimination of revolutionary leaders and particularly those with charisma" and the "physical destruction" of revolutionaries, inside and outside the country.

The TRC wants to discuss the documents with Mr Botha as part of its bid to trace responsibility for apartheid-era atrocities. Witnesses have told the TRC that Mr Botha sanctioned violence, although the former president has denied he was an "Afrikaner and Christian" would do so.

At the height of Mr Botha's rule, 30,000 opponents of apartheid were jailed without charge and 20,000 people were killed in political violence, according to human rights organisations.

In a submission to the TRC last year, Mr Botha's successor as president, FW de Klerk, claimed that while the ruling National Party might have created the conditions which allowed human rights violations to take place it never sanctioned them.

It is a position many refuse to accept: including former high-ranking policemen and military personnel who have claimed they took their orders from the very top.

Mr Botha is contesting the TRC's right to subpoena him. Attempts to find an out of court settlement delayed the beginning of his trial and led to a postponement of the criminal case yesterday.

The former president said in a statement that he found the delay unacceptable. Earlier he had turned angrily to his lawyers and said: "This case was set down for four days. Come on! It's go on." But the court agreed to a prosecution request for a postponement. The case will resume on 1 June.

## UN to pull out of Congo

By David Osborne  
in New York

AMIDST clear anger at the government of Laurent Kabila, the United Nations is preparing to withdraw a human rights mission from the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) even though its investigation into alleged massacres of Hutu refugees from neighbouring Rwanda is incomplete.

While a final decision may not be taken until the weekend, the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, indicated yesterday that the team in Congo would be coming home. "We have done the maximum and tried to go the extra mile," he said. "The search for the truth will go on by other means."

Dispatched last August, the UN team was investigating claims that large numbers of

Rwandan Hutu refugees were slaughtered in the east of the country during the early stages of Mr Kabila's march to power in 1996 and 1997. He toppled the dictator of the former Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, last May. The suspicion is that the massacres were encouraged by Rwanda's Tutsi-led government, which feared that the Hutus - blamed for slaughtering up to a million Tutsis in Rwanda - would return home.

The 25-strong team, however, has received scant co-operation from the Kabila government and constant harassment on the ground. Last week, a Canadian member of the group was detained overnight. Mary Robinson, the UN high commissioner for human rights, denounced the action as a "flagrant breach" of Kinshasa's obligation.

The UN decision is likely to deepen the international isolation of the Kabila government which had been hoping for an influx of aid after Mobutu's removal. But as fears have gathered that his government may turn out to be as repressive as the last, promises of aid have not materialised.

"This will underscore how difficult it is to get to the facts and how difficult it is to get governments to cooperate when human rights abuses are at stake," Mr Annan commented.

The Secretary General is expected to ask a Chilean human rights lawyer, Roberto Garretón, to continue the investigation in neighbouring countries. Mr Garretón was chosen last year to head a first mission, but was asked to step down by Mr Annan when Mr Kabila objected.

## Russia plans to build world's largest passenger airliner

By Phil Reeves  
in Moscow

RUSSIAN aircraft designers say they are planning a gigantic super-jumbo jet which would be capable of carrying as many as 1,000 people - making it the largest passenger airliner in the world.

Sukhoi, which is renowned for its fighter jets, is seeking investors for the project in the hope of exploiting a sharp rise in demand forecast for large long-haul jets over the next few decades.

The vast aircraft, the KR-860 - otherwise known as "The Wings of Russia" - is intended to challenge the A3XX super-jumbo being developed by Airbus Industrie, a four-nation European consortium which includes Britain. The latter, a four-engine double-decker affair, will initially carry 570 passengers in three classes, with a range of 7,500-8,500 miles. It is due off the blocks in 2003.



Mass flight: Boeing's 747-400, currently the world's largest airliner. The new jet would carry twice as many people

In terms of size alone, the Russian project is highly ambitious. It would carry nearly double the number of passengers as the Boeing 747 - the aircraft that has for decades dominated the jumbo market - and have more than twice the 440 seats in an Airbus A330. "We understand that developing such a plane requires substantial sums of money and we are trying to get it from

Russian investors," Gennady Yanpolsky, Sukhoi's deputy chief designer told Reuters. It is also understood that Western investors are being canvassed. Until recently, Sukhoi was primarily known for its military aircraft but last month it registered a commercial aviation consortium in Kazan, capital of the republic of Tatarstan in Russia. Some industry estimates

place demand for jets of 550 seats or more at around 500 over the next 20 years, chiefly because of the shortage of landing slots at major hubs such as London and New York - a problem which would be solved by fewer but bigger aircraft. However, Airbus believes the orders will be higher than this. ■ Russia's acting prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, approved terms on Wednesday for financing a new inter-continental ballistic missile and promised to keep up funding for the defence industry.

Mr Kiriyenko, who is fighting for parliamentary approval for his nomination as prime minister, said he had accepted a monthly schedule for financing production of the Topol-M single-warhead missile. The missile is expected to be part of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces, thought to be in better shape than most of the underfunded armed forces.

## Americans run from the competition

AMERICANS are good sports. But when it comes to long-distance running, the normal sense of fair play seems to be fraying. Too many Kenyans are winning races in the United States and steps are being taken to stop them, writes David Usborne in New York.

Thus when competitors gather in Boulder, Colorado, next month for one of America's premier distance meets, only three Kenyans will be allowed to enter. Otherwise, say the race's organisers and

its corporate sponsors, Kenya will sweep away the US competition.

Last year, at the Boulder race, called Boulder Boulder, six of the first eight places were taken by Kenyans. In 1996, Kenyans accounted for eight of the first 10 finishers.

Not only will the number of Kenyan entrants be limited this year, but there will also be a skewed distribution of the \$32,000 (£19,000) in prize money. Any American who finishes in the top five will earn double the normal cash.

Is this unfair and racist? Maybe. But the folks in Boulder are unmoved. Race director Bill Reef told the *New York Times*: "It's our country, our event, our money. American sponsors want American winners, or at least Americans among the top finishers."

Craig Mosbach of USA Track & Field, the sport's governing body, said: "We're not limiting opportunities for foreigners but creating opportunities for Americans."

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Match 5 plus bonus ball	5	£246,573	£1,232,365
Match 5	505	£1,625	£1770,125
Match 4	27,559	£61	£1,681,099
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# Turning the killers loose

The peace agreement in Ulster has paved the way for the release of convicted bombers and gunmen. Not everyone is celebrating.

Nicole Veash reports

HOW would you feel if your daughter was murdered and her killer was released in a political deal?

That is what the Travers family is having to face in the wake of the peace settlement brokered in Northern Ireland. The Good Friday agreement paved the way for 440 criminals - including bombers and gunmen jailed for multiple killings - to be released in the next two years in a political amnesty.

Hardliners in the IRA and unionist paramilitary organisations like the UVF and UDA, have long seen murders and maimings as legitimate acts of war in their armed struggle. They argue that criminal sentences are inappropriate and say those behind bars should be seen as political prisoners, distinct from other criminals.

Sinn Féin's pressure group Saoirse, or Freedom, has long campaigned for the release of the prisoners. Gerry Adams always wears the group's discreet green ribbon, a constant reminder that for the republicans, releasing prisoners has always been a part of their peace deal strategy. In a move widely interpreted as a "goodwill" gesture to the republican movement, the Irish government released nine IRA prisoners on Tuesday, including a terrorist supposed to stay in jail until 2005.

Voices, particularly those of senior RUC officers, have already been raised in protest against the decision. But those for whom the decision is most painful are the families whose fathers, mothers, sons and daughters have been killed during the years of the Troubles.

Among them is Tom Travers. For 14 years he has remained silent about the death of his daughter Mary, a 23-year-old Catholic teacher, shot dead by IRA assassins after Sunday mass. For the first time, this quiet, retiring man has decided to speak about the tragedy which has blighted his life, because he can't live with the knowledge that killers will soon be walking the streets of Belfast.

"There has never been a day gone by when I have not thought about Mary," he says. "Her death was my fault. I have to take responsibility for that and live with the guilt which has never gone away. Time does not heal. The pain is still fresh inside of me."

"That's why I have to speak out now. The Government has singled out the person who murdered Mary for special treatment. They are saying it was a political act and not an act of murder. But it *has* to be murder because she was shot in cold blood."

Mary was shot at point-blank range when she was with her father. As a magistrate, Tom Travers was deemed a legitimate IRA target, although he was a Roman Catholic who grew up in the same working-class community as his daughter's killers.

Mr Travers, who was pumped with six



bullets which put him in intensive care and have left him in constant pain, survived the attack. "The doctors thought I wouldn't make it," he says quietly. "The plan was to hold off Mary's funeral, so I could be buried along side her."

It was a sunny April morning in 1984 when the Travers family left St Brigid's Roman Catholic Church after the noon mass. It was a matter of walking 200 yards back to their home and they thought little of it. Not that they were reckless; many people in Northern Ireland have lived under the threat of death. They know how hard it is to constantly vary movements and be on the look-out, but they understand how even the smallest of mistakes can cost lives.

Although he never had any special security arrangements, Tom Travers was always a careful man. He would never go shopping in the nearby town centre and would try to vary day-to-day movements as much as possible.

"I felt really happy that morning and we were all very much in love," says Mr Travers staring out of his living room window at the street lights flickering in the valley below. "Mary was in high spirits because she was to take her first primary school class to confession that afternoon. She was busy getting everything prepared and she wanted to go to the last mass of the morning."

"I felt each individual bullet rip through my skin. I kept thinking will the next be my last? I thought, either I'm going to die or I'm going to spend the rest of my life as a cabbage. I lay in the dirty, dusty street, conscious the whole time, hoping they would shoot only me and not Joan or Mary. I didn't know I was lying there in Mary's blood."

After mass Tom, Joan and Mary said their goodbyes to fellow parishioners at the church door and started their short walk home. "We were walking up the street when we heard a bang which sounded like a gun," says Mr Travers. "Mary saw this man cross the road and said in her beautiful, sweet voice 'That man has a gun'. Then he came towards us and pulled the trigger. I was shot six times from arm's length."

While these thoughts were passing through Mr Travers' mind, Mary was lying dead on the ground; a bullet had torn through her aorta.

Mary wondered how a girl who taught in the staunchly republican, Catholic Andersonstown area of west Belfast could have been so brutally killed by the IRA. When it admitted responsibility days later, they tried to justify the attack by claiming the bullet that killed Mary had passed through her father first. It hadn't.



Mary Travers (top left). Her killer will be released under the peace agreement. Paramilitary gunmen (above) have ruined thousands of lives

In recent days, the grief of Mary's parents has intensified with news of the plan to release terrorists from jail. Even the word prisoner, a seemingly anodyne term for people who have killed, maimed and slaughtered in the name of a cause, seems in Tom Travers' eyes, particularly given his work as a magistrate. "They call them prisoners rather than criminals, yet the people I sentence for burglary are called criminals."

It took two years for two of the three people accused of Mary's murder to face trial. Only one, Mary Ann McArdle, was given a life sentence, the other was acquitted. The Travers family know McArdle would be released immediately under the proposed deal.

"The Government is hurting every single victim with this deal," says Mr Travers. "As a Christian I pray these people ask God for forgiveness, but they have never repented for their crimes. Every time politicians say we must remember the victims, I feel angry and depressed because they are just being hypocritical."

Only a few months ago, the reserved, 69-year-old, who has never spoken to anybody outside his immediate family about Mary, could not have mentioned her name

without crying. Now he is adamant that his own suffering should not be raised above others. "We are private people and we don't want to raise our grief above any other family's grief. We had our own Bloody Sunday, but many other people have suffered. And we don't want to lessen their loss. People touched by tragedy know that time can never heal. Many, many people are scarred in Northern Ireland."

Those who have lost relatives and friends in the years of Troubles are the

indignity is that the Government is telling us that our loved ones were not murdered and that the people who carried out these killings are as much victims as we are.

"We are being blackmailed into keeping quiet by not rocking the peace process. But I've had enough. I've kept quiet for 14 years, but enough is enough."

After his daughter's death, Mr Travers eventually returned to the bench as a local magistrate. He often faced paramilitaries across the courtroom, but always

without a police guard or an armoured car. We lost contact with all our friends because we couldn't meet them to socialise. We couldn't even join a victims' support group because we would be putting other people at risk. We don't have any freedom to live a normal life and we still live like hermits."

"I couldn't understand how I could be targeted by someone from my own religious community. They take away my right to have a normal life."

The Travers don't believe it is their place to absolve their daughter's murderers. They pray for the killers, but say only God can absolve. They are angry, not bitter. Angry that their daughter was another innocent victim of Ireland's Troubles.

"I have taken the murder of my daughter, the scattering of my family, the pain of the trial and the humiliation of a criminal injuries claim and I don't expect anyone to acknowledge me. But this is the final straw. I understand why paramilitaries want to release these people, but I can't take it from my own government. I'm being told to suffer so we can have peace. But this is one bridge that I just can't cross."

Tom and Joan Travers were given £209.75 to compensate for the loss of their daughter's life. They have never cashed that cheque. It remains in a desk drawer, fresh and pristine as the April morning their daughter lost her life.

**'We had our own Bloody Sunday, but many other people suffered. People touched by tragedy know that time can never heal'**

same people who long for peace. Many of them feel that if some good, some resolution can come out of the death and the grief then at least their husband, wife, brother, sister, son or daughter, will not have died in vain. But for Tom Travers that is such a high price to pay.

"For the first time in my life," he says, "I'm not going to vote. I long for peace because it will help my family get our lives back, but not at this price. The real

tried to divorce his personal tragedy from his professional life. But the last 14 years have been spent in fear. There have been further attempts on Mr Travers' life and all five of his remaining children left Belfast to escape the constant security pressure. But, unqualified to sit as an English magistrate, he has remained in Belfast.

"Mary's murder really shut down our lives," he says. "We couldn't go anywhere

## Why are men hopeless? It's all in the mind

New research claims the development of our behaviour is mirrored in the animal kingdom, writes Jerome Burns

WHY do human males have such relatively big penises? Why do human females, almost uniquely among mammals, become infertile in middle age? Why are men, generally, more promiscuous than women? These are the sort of almost child-like questions that fascinate American writer and scientist Jared Diamond.

Such questions demand what are known as "ultimate causal explanations" - religion used to offer such answers along the lines of "because God made us that way" - but nowadays evolutionary biology is seen as a more useful source.

So in his book *Why is Sex Fun?* (Phoenix, £5.99) Diamond begins by looking at animal sexual behaviour as a way of uncovering why ours is so different.

One of the stars of his new book is the female spotted sandpiper who is as sexually predatory as the most randy alpha male primate. She will pursue the smaller males for miles, have sex and then ensure no female rivals mate with them. When the eggs are laid her role reversal is complete because the males incubate and guard the chicks, while she goes on another sexual spree.

Nature emerges in this sort of account as a blind banker, ensuring, through the ruthless operation of genes, that all behaviours are subject to the disciplines of "profit and loss". "return on investment" and "energy costs". Applying these principles to human sexual behaviour allows Diamond to answer some of his questions. The menopause, for instance, turns out to be a logical response to a number of "cruel facts".

"At first sight it's a real puzzle because it looks as though human females have evolved a physical trait that cuts down their chances of reproducing," he says. "But it makes perfect sense in light of certain unique human features, like the focus's large head that makes childbirth very dangerous and the long period that the child needs caring for." It turns out that it's a better bet to protect your existing investment in children than to risk dying, and so reducing their chances of survival, by trying for another one.

A critique of applying what might be called the "heron factor" to humans is to say our intelligence puts us in a different league. We have culture and that makes a difference. "Of course you can't understand human behaviour without considering culture," Diamond admits. "but the menopause isn't cultural and something like marriage is unusual among primates yet it's found in all societies, so culture can't explain that either."

In fact trying to find a biological basis for our (comparatively) monogamous pair-bonding is a good example of the strengths and weaknesses of Diamond's approach. The traditional story is that our female ancestors couldn't hunt because they were weighed down by child-care, so the men went hunting to bring back the meat, mother and babies needed to survive.

But research into hunting

performance of modern day hunter-gatherers by a woman anthropologist, Kristen Hawkes of the University of Utah, paints a different picture.

"She found that hunting was actually a very inefficient way of food gathering," says Diamond. "The men often come back empty handed and when you averaged out their occasional big kills, they supplied less food than the women did by much less glamorous method of foraging for roots and berries near the camp."

Diamond heads the chapter describing this research. "What are men good for?" and concludes that the jury is still out on that one. Evolutionary psychology may not be able to provide definitive answers yet, but at least its theories are testable, unlike religious or psychoanalytical ones.

What does emerge is the built-in conflict of interests between males and females. "One way of summarising it," says

Diamond "is that a woman is better off being married to a provider but a man is not best off being a provider." So doesn't evolutionary theory provide an excuse for male philandering? Shouldn't we be trying to spread our genes?

"Evolution doesn't tell us anything about how people ought to behave. For instance, it's obvious that humans have developed with a tendency for murder and genocide. Among the hunter-gatherers I studied in New Guinea, the main cause of death was murder. But we have set up strong social systems to outlaw that sort of behaviour and do it very successfully."

That still leaves the matter of our large penises. It seems likely that it serves as some sort of signal of virility. But think about this: if the same quantity of tissue were instead devoted to extra cerebral cortex, that redesigned brainy man would gain a big advantage.

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Animation: Jared Diamond outlines his behavioural theory

Photographs: Nicola Kurcz



# Dose Worth millions. The shirts that is

The cost of replica football kit can take the shirt off your back: Tim Hulse finds out how it happens

FOR months it's been the subject of fevered speculation. Journalists have done their best to reveal its secrets but without much success. Small boys have tossed and turned at night anticipating its arrival. And now, at the Match of the Day Live event at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, it was about to be revealed to the public gaze for the very first time.

The packed crowd of football fans around the catwalk waits expectantly and you can almost cut the atmosphere with a knife. And then suddenly, with no fanfare, there it is, on the backs of Andy Cole, Nicky Butt and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. It's the new Manchester United home shirt. There's a deafening roar as the players walk sheepishly to the front of the catwalk so that we can appreciate this ground-breaking piece of sports apparel in all its glory.

For this is no ordinary football shirt. It boasts a revolutionary non-locking zip for

which the makers, Umbro, had to obtain special approval from the Football Association. And there's another first - the shirts will also be available in special "women's fits", one of which resembles a dress. The shirts go on sale on 19 May and look set to be the biggest-selling football shirts ever. This is not just a football shirt to cover the backs of a Premier League team. This is big business: part of a merchandising industry which is worth £200 million a year. It provides ready profits for the team, and similar riches for the sportswear industry.

Replica shirts are one of the largest sectors of the £1.6 billion sports and leisurewear market, which is expected to grow by 20 per cent before the millennium. Clubs are believed to earn at least £10 per shirt sold to dedicated fans, on top of retainers from the manufacturers. Top of the shirt league is Manchester United: last year the club achieved a record £27 million profits from merchandising, including sales of half a million strips under its deal with Umbro.

Current guidelines urge clubs not to change their kit more than once every two years, but revenue is maximised by their having several different home and away strips. Last year Manchester United issued a fourth strip for its players to wear in the Champions' League, with replicas costing £80 for an adult and £63 for children. Manchester's fans

have been especially devoted. In the last five years, the strip has changed 13 times.

Sportswear giants such as Adidas, Reebok and Nike, together with football specialists like Umbro, fight hard to get the juiciest slices of the pie. "Everyone wants the same thing," says Robin Money, of Adidas UK, which manufactures Newcastle United's kit. "We all want the big clubs. We don't want hundreds of clubs, we just want the best ones."

And they're willing to pay higher and higher prices to get them. Back in 1992, when Nike signed a £4 million deal to supply Arsenal's kit, the news shocked the sportswear industry. "Silly money," people said. But if that was silly, then things were soon to become truly ridiculous as the bandwagon started to roll. Bigger deals quickly followed for both Rangers and Newcastle and within three years, Reebok had

put pen to paper to finalise a five-year deal with Liverpool said to be worth around £25 million. Shortly afterwards Umbro stumped up around £60m to continue their arrangement with Manchester United for another six years.

So just how silly has it got? "The prices are certainly getting very high," says Money, "and that's simply because it's a very competitive marketplace."

At a recent football business conference, Edward Freedman, the former Manchester United merchandising manager who is widely credited with helping to create football's commercial boom, warned that replica shirt sales are falling. Since the money paid out by sportswear companies is an advance against royalties on products sold, a dip in the market could leave some of them considerably over-stretched. Freedman's view is echoed by Richard Perks, senior

retail analyst at Verdict, a company specialising in retail trade surveys. "It's certainly our impression that the market's peaked," he says. "It was still growing last year, but I think it probably peaked around the year end."

However, the manufacturers disagree with these gloomy forecasts, maintaining that sales are traditionally fairly flat at this time of year, while Colin Russell, the replica buyer at JJB Sports, which has over 200 hundred stores nationwide selling replica kit, says the market is in fact booming.

"We're seeing growth, not a reduction in sales," he says. And the World Cup should certainly help. The new Brazil shirt was launched a couple of weeks ago and is selling "way beyond expectation", according to Russell.

Which will no doubt be good news for Nike, which recently paid a whopping £250

million for the rights to manufacture it for the next ten years.

Certainly it's in both the clubs' and the manufacturers' interests to keep the prices high, because a price war could begin to affect royalties. Bargain hunters usually find it hard to track down bargain-priced shirts although last week Safeway put a limited number of official England kits on sale at £10 less than the normal price. On this occasion Safeway managed to obtain the kits from a third party, rather than the makers, Umbro.

One recent special offer from JJB Sports put the current Liverpool home shirt on sale for just £12.99. The shirt is due to be changed next month and JJB Sports obtained the shirts from the makers, Reebok, in a clearance deal.

What was interesting about that particular special offer was the clue it gave to the actual cost price of replica shirts,

which retail at an unofficial standard price of £39.99 for a basic adult's short-sleeved shirt.

When I asked the normally voluble Edward Freedman if replica shirts only cost a fiver to make, he replied simply, "I'll leave you to do the research on that."

Which is what I did, by speaking to someone who until recently worked for one of the major manufacturers. He told me that the cost of making shirts depends to a certain extent on the amount of embroidery and printing involved, but "you could easily get a quote for about £7 for that type of product".

And who can blame them? As long as fans are willing to buy replica shirts, then the manufacturers will keep on churning them out. As Robin Money at Adidas points out, "It's a business. Clubs are there to make money and we're there to make money."

Where does the £35 cost of a replica shirt go?

Made in factory for £5

Sold to sportswear company for £7.50

Sold to retailer for £13.50

Sold in the shop for £35



Moneyspinners: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Nicky Butt and Andy Cole show off Manchester United's new strip at Match of the Day Live at Birmingham's NEC Photograph: NTI

## What happens after the last dance is over?

Nicola Barranger finds help is at hand for ballet dancers who can't face a life away from the stage

FIVE years ago Stephen Wicks was at the peak of his career. As a principal of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, he'd had several roles choreographed specially for him. Today he is "retired" from ballet and well-established in his second career owning a flower shop with fellow ex-dancer, Mark Welford. Both realise now that when they went into business, it was not just the commercial world they were naive about. Like most dancers they were pretty naive about life outside dance as well.

Mark puts this late maturing down to the fact that the ballet company disliked anyone showing initiative. "You're treated like children all the time, being told what to do even after you're 30. I wouldn't have minded so much if people had listened to me some of the time. If you ever said something, you were slapped down from-

diately for being rude or you were just not listened to. That's why people mature less quickly. They don't have to do anything for themselves, they're not allowed to."

If dancers retire in their twenties, (often because of injury), the adjustment to life after dance can be especially hard. They may not have fulfilled themselves as a dancer nor, if their training has been particularly strict, matured completely as an individual. Angelica MacArthur admits now, that 23 was far too early for her to give up. "I felt that I needed another place in which to continue the growth within myself." Unlike most dancers, Angelica had developed other interests outside ballet. Psychology held a particular fascination and much of her choreographic work reflected abstract subjects. "One of the big disappointments for me when I entered the professional world was the people. I found the culture a superficial one."

In what Angelica now sees as a rash decision, she left her job with the Netherlands National Ballet at a time when choreographers were taking a keen interest in her beautiful tall frame. After leaving ballet, Angelica went back to college and although she is



now settled and a successful clinical psychologist with a particular emphasis on arts performers, she admits she has enormous regrets. "I had a tremendous period of grieving for what I had prematurely given up. It took a good 10 years for me to overcome that grief, that pain."

Her experience inspired her to offer other dancers counselling, something she would have appreciated when she was mourning the loss of her own dancing career.

"For about two or three years I turned my back on ballet. I couldn't bear to watch it. It was too acutely painful. Seven years later it really hit me that it had been like a death and I wasn't going to go back. It was

then that Angelica went into psycho-analysis to work through the depression.

Not all dancers suffer such intense bereavement. Much depends on the level at which the dancer leaves. Margaret Barbieri was one of the Royal Ballet's principal dancers in the mid-Seventies and was fortunate enough to continue performing until well into her forties. Giving up was not the problem, she says. Thinking about it gave her the most angst.

"I spent many nights crying about it and just not being able to come to terms with the fact that I was going to have to stop. It was the fear of the unknown."

Today Margaret Barbieri is



Mark Welford and Stephen Wicks (left) have made a successful transition from stage to floristry, but for other dancers the future is not so clear Photographs: Nicola Kurtz/David Rose

a director of ballet at the London Studio Centre and says she gets as much pleasure out of seeing her students develop and achieve their own success.

Until recently, there was no encouragement to think about life without dancing. Even today, many young dancers have to be forced to plan for their second career. Linda Yates is Executive Director of the Dance Companies Resettlement Fund and visits the ballet companies regularly to encourage the youngsters to think about the impossible. "I'm quite blunt about it. I say to the dancers - 'It is a fact, your career will come to an end in your early thirties'. There is the usual sort of denial, because if you love a career that much, you can't ever imagine it ending."

Five major British companies pay into the resettlement fund which gives grants to dancers "in transition" to a new career, helping people like Stephen Wicks and Mark Welford retrain in floristry. "When I first came to this job, resettlement for many dancers, equalled retirement equalled

death. I hope I've successfully turned that round into "resettlement equals positive future and career development. Building on what you know as a dancer and possibly using that knowledge and skills in another area."

What almost all dancers take to their new career is strict discipline. Many who go on to university, for example, simply cannot understand the fuss fellow students might make about essay deadlines.

Linda Yates tries to convince dancers of their strong points. "They just don't have the life experiences, they haven't had any other identities or careers to fall back on. Once you have supported them during that phase of feeling under-confident they really succeed - they do exceptionally well. Dancers have an awful lot going for them. I think sometimes they just don't see it."

Nicola Barranger presents two 30 minute documentaries on BBC Radio 4 'Ballet Dancers never die... They just lose their Pointe' today and Friday 24th April at 11.00am

## Listen to this man



The 1998 McCormick Lecture

Martin Sorrell is Group Chief Executive of WPP Group, which in 1997 generated a group annual turnover of £7.3bn. Under his leadership WPP has become the worlds leading communications services group, employing 22,000 people, within 30 companies, in 90 countries.

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Martin Sorrell is also an enthusiastic supporter of The Association of MBAs and as a part of the McCormick Lecture series, will be giving a talk explaining how WPP is working to ensure that for them, the whole adds up to more than the sum of its parts. The talk will be held on April 20th, 1998.

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## Vote out the rotten boroughs

NOW, here's a puzzle for the keen student of current affairs. Do you know who Richard Leese is? Or George Mickelwright? Or Frank McAvoy? No? Didn't think so. Well, they are, respectively, the leaders of Manchester, Bristol and Glasgow city councils. They should be as well known as say, Peter Lilley. Make that "better known". They're very important people because, local government for all the knocks it took under the Conservatives, still matters. It is not just about emptying the bins. Councils still have a significant role in educating our children, planning and protecting our environments, providing social services for our most vulnerable neighbours. Elections to them should be treated as more than a glorified public opinion poll or a playground for spin doctors to minimise expectations and maximise hype. For the next few weeks try not to listen to Tony Blair. Paddy Ashdown or William Hague. Ignore them. Use your local media, read the council candidates' election addresses. Councillors deserve to be assessed on their records and not those of their parties nationally. Too few of us bother.

On 7 May, millions of voters will turn out for elections to councils all over the country. Or rather many millions more will stay at home and give voting a miss. We are used to the idea that turnout in local elections is low, but a few months ago participation in the democratic process hit a new low.

In Melrose ward, Liverpool, just 687 souls could be bothered to drag themselves to the polling stations out of an electorate of just under 11,000 (a 6.3 per cent turnout). As Roy Castle might have said, it was a low-polling, poor-turnout, democratically insecure record-breaker. As a result, though, Labour lost its overall majority on Liverpool City Council. This should have been a major, hard-fought political event. But because people became inured to the idea that they can make no difference hardly anyone bothered to turn out. Who would?

There are plenty of places where extreme political domination has killed democracy. We have, in this country, one-party statelets in some of our town halls that might make the late Kim Il Sung blush. In Rotherham, in Newham and in Lincoln there are no opposition councillors. None. All Labour members. What do we suppose the debates are like? What is the quality of decision making? Where is the competitive urge? This is the kind of set-up that breeds complacency and worse. Some of the worst of the recent scandals have been associated with this kind of historical domination. Doncaster, still being investigated by the police, is but one example. Nowadays there are even Liberal Democrat administrations, like the one in Richmond in London, where the competition seems to have been eliminated.

The Prime Minister and his colleagues are aware of the problem and have produced a stream of ideas. Almost all their proposals are praiseworthy, even the notion of placing ballot boxes in supermarkets. Most of all we are delighted that, referendum permitting, there will be a directly elected mayor for London. We hope that this will be extended. We are also delighted that the Government will be giving London an assembly elected under a system of proportional representation to balance the power of the mayor. What we find puzzling, disappointing and inconsistent in the Government's proposals thus far is that it seems to have set itself against extending PR to other parts of the country. PR, other things being equal, brings with it a greater possibility of change, reduces the perception that a vote is "wasted", and tends to make for competitive politics.

Let's face it, the existing rotten boroughs are bad enough, but imagine what things would be like if the Government extended the idea of directly elected mayors without PR assemblies. No auditor on earth would be able to help some of the people who will have to live under a powerful mayor backed by a council chamber stuffed with members of his own party. The kind of balance we see in the London model should be good enough for us all. It may take some years to come. We don't think local democracy can wait that long. In the meantime, on 7 May, we should use the opportunities that we do have to start dismantling the one-party states. And, despite the temptation, do not cast a verdict on Blair's first year. Vote local.

## Dunces in cyberspace

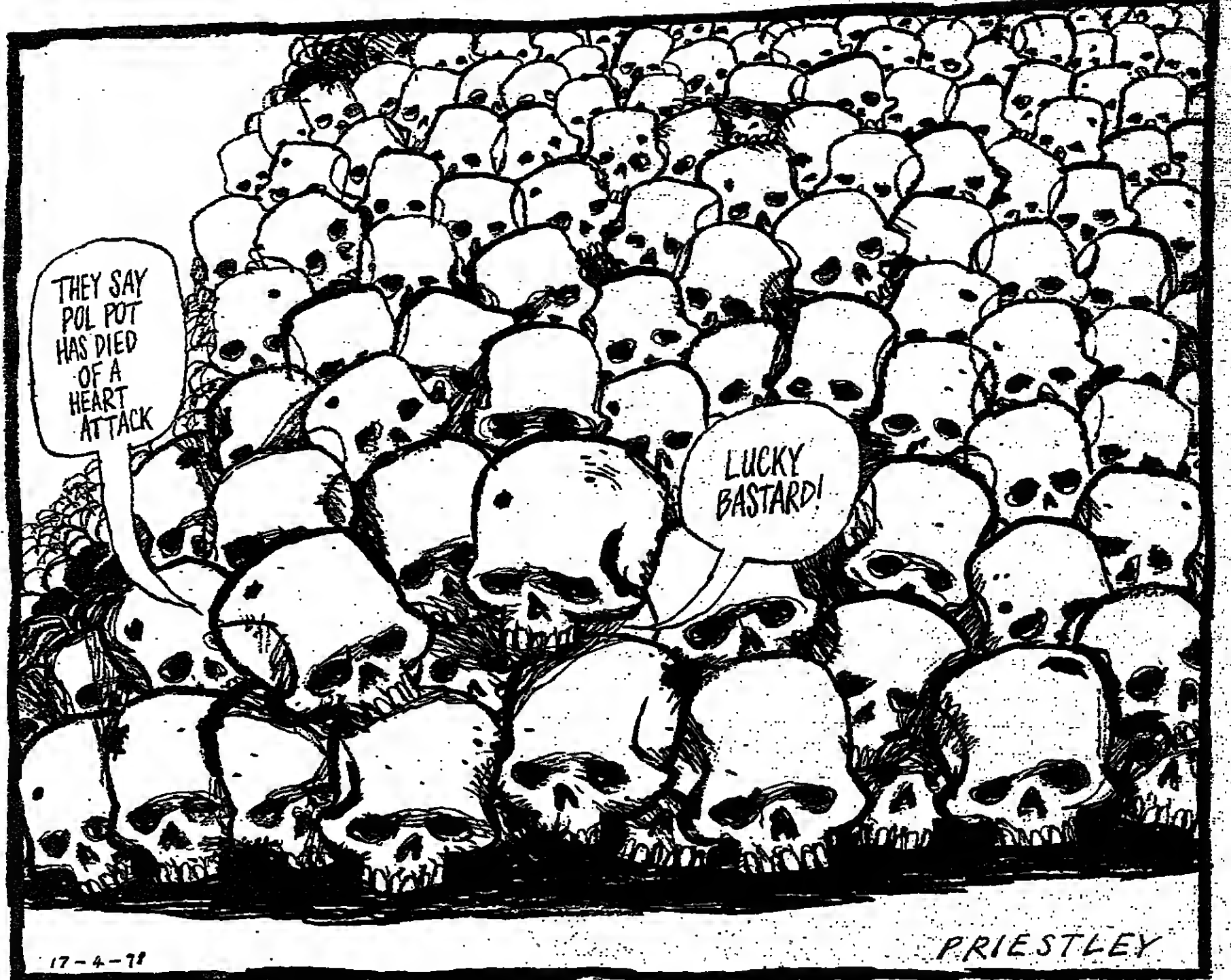
THE ODD THING about people who do not use computers is how often they overestimate the power of technology. There are the ignorant enthusiasts who think that computers are the answer to every problem. And there are the fearful technophobes, like the elderly women who reputedly will not use cash machines in case they inadvertently drain all the money from their accounts by pressing the wrong button. Both make the mistake of attributing mystical qualities to inert masses of chips and transistors.

The enthusiasts are the sort of people who think that, if only they had an electronic organiser, their lives would be organised. Although the chief enthusiast, the Prime Minister, is too busy running the world - from a sofa, armed with a fountain pen and a telephone - to fill his head with icons. As he admitted yesterday: "I write my speeches in longhand and others type them up." Still, a photo-opportunity with a granny in a library browsing through the port - sorry, valuable public resources - on the Internet helps identify Tony Blair as a leader in touch with the future.

Genuine computer users, on the other hand, know well the frustrations of misnamed headlines and unintelligible error messages. They know that computers are stupid and fallible and can make simple tasks incredibly complicated. But they also know that we cannot do without them. To take one example at random, *The Independent* is totally dependent on computers and is several times more efficient than newspapers were using the old technology.

The Government's plans to equip schools with computers are not a panacea, but they are necessary. World leaders and old ladies may be able to get by without knowing their mouse from their e-mail, but children need to learn about computers, digital wars and all.

However, it is only when computers have become so mundane and boring that politicians do not bother to talk about them, that we will know we have really arrived in the Information Age.



### Poisons on the farm

YOUR report "Hidden menace of nerve-gas poisons in sheep dip" (15 April) highlights the link between ME-like illness and exposure to organophosphates. I note that it has taken years of protracted struggle for this connection to be taken seriously.

The fact that not all farmers who use OP-based dips have developed illness clearly suggests that sensitivity to the poison is variable across the population. The probability must therefore exist that some people are vulnerable to the low-level but persistent contamination found in the environment.

Used sheep dips have regularly found their way into the nearest watercourse, whether by accident or recklessness. Resulting "low" level contamination will therefore sometimes be much higher than we are led to believe. OPs also find their way into our bodies as spray residues, both on and inside "healthy" vegetables.

It is likely that meat also contains OP residues, as the drenching of cattle is intended to make their bodies poisonous to the warble fly. Now that the Somerset farmer Mark Purdy has finally found the ear of the stubbornly deaf establishment, we may find out officially what part these toxins played in the BSE epidemic.

So far as ME is concerned, some research has been done. One study found that sheep-dipper's illness and "typical" ME were clinically identical, suggesting that both entities share a common pathogenesis. (*Chronic Fatigue Syndrome as a Delayed Reaction to Chronic Low-dose Organophosphate Exposure*; Behan, 1996).

Perhaps it is time for the Government to fund some serious and committed research into the insidious poisoning of the population, since by current estimates there are 100,000 people with ME in this country and tinkering with the benefit system does not seem to have cured them. STEVE SMAILES, Warrminster, Wiltshire

I AM writing to pick up on the points in Joanna Wheatley's letter (8 April) about research into a possible link between organophosphates and BSE. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fish-

eries and Food have not yet agreed to finance any research in this area. We would however be prepared to consider research applications, from scientists who wish to work in this area, as part of our ongoing commitment to support research, including independent research, into BSE. Any application would be considered on its own merits in competition with other applications for financial support and could involve peer review.

Ms Wheatley's letter quite rightly points out a number of important issues in relation to the design of particular kinds of experiments in this area, although there are other approaches. We would expect any application to have thought through the need for proper controls in this as in any scientific experiment. Dr D W F SHANNON, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London SE1

### Defence review

I WELCOME the acknowledgement by Dave Knight of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Letters, 15 April) that the strategic Defence Review has been a truly strategic review of Britain's conventional force capability matched to the reality of international stability. I must, however, clarify the position on his other points.

First, I can assure Mr Knight that the review has indeed been foreign-policy led and that it has considered all aspects of defence policy, including our nuclear deterrent. The Government was elected on a manifesto commitment to retain Trident as a credible minimum deterrent and our work has naturally therefore started from that basis. We are, however, prepared to look afresh at all aspects of how this commitment should be implemented. I am confident that this fresh look at deter-

rence will be a key feature of the review's final conclusions.

Second, I reject entirely Mr Knight's assertion that we have been obstructive in our approach to nuclear arms control. Our manifesto commitment to multilateral negotiations to achieve mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons, with the goal of their global elimination, is very clear. With this in mind, we have now ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (no other nuclear weapon state except France has yet done so), and we are looking at how to take our commitment further forward. We do, however, remain to be convinced that seeking a time-based framework for nuclear disarmament, as advocated by some in New York and Geneva, is a practical way to make progress. Dr JOHN REID, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence, London SW1

### Church in turmoil

I AM one of very few "spare" priests in a deanery with several parishes "in vacancy". I spend a lot of time driving around a big area enabling congregations to receive the Blessed Sacrament, which they couldn't otherwise do, and I find them, without exception, welcoming and grateful.

I found it really hard to take that *The Independent* should see fit to publish the obscene, ugly and very hurtful paintings of Fr John Pelling, with his "loathing" for women priests (Back Page, 13 April). If "Forward in Faith" is prepared to receive money from such a source then it is an even more dubious body than I have always thought it. The Rev JUNE SIMPSON, Workshop, Nottinghamshire

GEDRGE AUSTIN's disillusionment with the Church of England is clearly shared by many, as falling

## LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Sacked spoons

YOU SUGGEST that some staff working for the three Secret Services might have lost their jobs ("Cash cuts mean 007 gets his P45", 14 April). I hope that few of these staff that have been forced to leave, because they are very unlikely to have been allowed to complain to the Industrial Tribunal. The blanket ban preventing staff going to the tribunal was removed only a couple of years ago but in the only case I know that has been considered by a tribunal, the ban was reapplied immediately.

Richard Tomlinson, who worked for the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), was sacked and tried to apply to the tribunal, claiming unfair dismissal. He was met with the blanket ban in the form of a Ministerial Certificate, very like a public interest immunity certificate. Following attempts to take the case in appeal and to the European Commission of Human Rights the blanket ban was removed but the Foreign Secretary at the time, Malcolm Rifkind, still insisted his case could not be dealt with by the tribunal.

Meanwhile the three tribunals set up to provide a mechanism of complaint for members of the public who feel they have been kept unfairly under surveillance have yet to find in favour of one single person.

I hope that the Comprehensive Spending Review of the three services will recommend changes which will ensure that the staff have rights, that the public has rights and that we are really getting value for money. JOHN WADHAM, Director, Liberty, London SE1

### War games

EVA PASCOE (Network+, 14 April) is worried about violent computer games. Children have been playing games involving swords, guns, bows and arrows and other weapons almost since children have been playing games at all. Why should a game that happens to have a plug at the end be any more of a threat? LISA DONOVAN, London E1

### Name these isles

TRIONA CAREY (letter, 14 April) questions whether the British Isles should be renamed.

In his book *The Third World War* General Sir John Hackett has written that in 1982-83 in talks between the British and Irish governments some form of association covering the British Isles was considered for "the Isles of the North Atlantic (for which the happy acronym IONA had already been coined)". What an excellent name for these islands. Col H T ROOKE, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

### Chicken or egg

YOU QUOTE the agricultural manager of Tesco as saying: "There is absolutely no reason why any chicken or turkey should have to suffer during its life" ("Tesco to talk to its chickens", 13 April). Does this mean that Tesco are to stop selling battery eggs? VESNA JONES, London NW4

## Israel, America, Manchester United and the secret of unpopularity



MILES KINGTON

NEWCASTLE United have known some bad times recently. Their very expensive footballers seem unable to win matches, and their equally expensive directors seem unable to win friends, or even keep their jobs. This is presumably very bad news in Newcastle, where pride and football tend to go hand in hand, but I cannot say it is very bad news elsewhere - at least, I didn't think so until I saw a headline the other day which said that Newcastle were in danger of slipping from the national affluence.

This puzzled me. I didn't know that Newcastle United played any part at all in the national affluence. I thought that Geordies rather liked to be slightly apart from the rest of England, and that the rest of England liked them to be slightly apart as well. The idea that Newcastle United is either popular or unpopular had not occurred to me. Indeed, considering that their fortunes have been built on the fortunes

of Sir John Hall, a man who does not seem to inspire much affection even in Newcastle, I would have thought that it was more likely to be unpopular than popular.

But then can any one side in football be popular beyond its local area? Only Manchester United has the reputation of being such a side. Man Utd supporters have the strange distinction of being able to come from anywhere - you don't have to come from Manchester or even to have been to Manchester to be a Man Utd supporter. Indeed, there is one school of thought which says it is probably easier to support Manchester if you have never been there.

There again, this universal feeling in favour of Manchester United has produced a backlash in the shape of a universal feeling against Manchester United. No team is more wanted to win. No team is more wanted to lose. There may be Man Utd supporters who have never been to Man-

chester but there are people who are incredibly irked by Manchester United who have never been near the place, in a way that would never happen, I think, to Chelsea or Liverpool. I don't think Arsenal are universally popular either, but there does seem to be a wave of prayer and desire that Arsenal should overtake Man Utd at the end of this season and deprive them of the title, and it isn't just a wave of relief that it is not a one-horse race after all.

One thing which has contributed to retain sympathy for Manchester United is the memory of the Munich air crash, which hovers in their history almost in the same way that the Holocaust hovers behind Israeli history. But Israel, like Man Utd, is also beginning to find its sympathy credit running low. Somebody was asking on the radio the other day just how long Israelis can go on invoking the Holocaust every time they are criticised, and the answer is, surely, no longer

at all. What Israel is doing to its Arab population is very unpleasant indeed, and rather reminiscent of what people used to do to the Jews in other places. If I were Jewish, I would be ashamed of Israel. I would be in good company. Jonathan Miller is Jewish and he bravely said the other day that he was ashamed of Israel.

But I suppose that when you are top dog at local or international level, you have to get used to being unpopular. The Americans have had a great deal of practice at this (as Britain did a hundred years ago), because nobody likes the self-appointed chief traffic warden of the world. In America's case, there are compensations, of course. The Americans don't mind being universally disliked, because very few of them have noticed that it has happened. They find it easier to bear unpopularity when so many of us put our hands into our pockets and buy so much of their junk culture, from the

Oscar ceremonies to Coke and McDonald's. (Indeed, if you were looking for the most unpopular body in the world, it would have to be someone in America who was unpopular even by American standards. American lawyers, perhaps. British editors of American papers...)

But I don't want to seem sour at the end of the week, so I would like to end on a humorous note. In fact, on a humorous and indelicate note, which brings us back to football, in the shape of an excellent joke I heard from comedian Mark Thomas, as follows: "Which three League football teams have rude words in their names?"

"I don't know. Which three League football teams have rude words in their names?" "Arsenal, Southampton and f---ing Manchester United."

All letters from Man Utd fans, Zionists and American lawyers will be courteously ignored.

هكمان الأصيل







# Pol Pot

"WHO are you, comrade Pol Pot?" asked the first journalist allowed into Cambodia under Khmer Rouge rule in 1978. The reply was evasive.

Pol Pot is now reported dead. Not for the first time. In a 40-year political career, he specialised in withdrawing to the shadows, "retiring to study", spreading rumours of his demise. This kept opponents in the dark, and took pressure off his allies. Pol Pot's name, after all, is that of one of the 20th century's most brutal mass murderers.

For another reason, too, a death in his bed may be just what Pol Pot needed. US and Cambodian government officials were planning to establish a tribunal to try him and other Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide.

Pol Pot was born Saloth Sar, in the province of Kompong Thom, in 1925. His parents owned 12 hectares of land. Under their son's regime, they would have been "class enemies". But few villagers thought so then. Rich or poor, everyone tilled the fields, fished the river, cooked tasty soups, propitiated local spirits and French colonial officials, or thronged Buddhist festivities. A French official described Kompong Thom people as "the most deeply Cambodian and the least susceptible to our influence".

The Saloth family had royal connections. Pol Pot's cousin was one of King Norodom's wives, his sister Sanxung a consort. His brother Loth Suong made a career in palace protocol. Pol Pot joined him at the age of six. This country boy never worked a ricefield, or knew much of village life. A year in a royal monastery was followed by six in a Catholic school. His upbringing was strict. The girl next door, Saki Srong, recalls that Suong "was very serious and would not gamble or allow children to play near his home". The palace compound was closed, the old king a French puppet. Outside, Phnom Penh's 100,000 inhabitants were mostly Chinese shopkeepers and Vietnamese workers. Few Cambodian children were so removed from their vernacular culture.

In 1945, demanding independence from France, Buddhist monks led Khmer nationalists

in common cause with Vietnamese Communists. In 1948, Pol Pot went to study radioelectricity in Paris. Travelling through Saigon, he felt ill at ease in bustling Vietnam, like a "dark monkey from the mountains".

Suong got a letter from him in France, requesting the official biography of King Norodom Sihanouk. He replied: "Don't get involved in politics." Pol Pot was already in the Cambodian section of the French Communist Party, then in its Stalinist heyday. But he was self-effacing, charming. He kept company with Khieu Ponnary, the first Khmer woman to get the *baccalauréat*. The couple chose Bastille Day for their wedding back home in 1956.

Pol Pot's Paris student friends included Khieu Samphan, Ieng Sary and Son Sen. Samphan remains a leader of the Khmer Rouge insurgents today. But Pol Pot had early disagreements with Hou Yuen, later a popular Marxist intellectual, and one of their first victims on winning power. Pol stood out in his choice of a *nom de plume*: the "Original Cambodian". Others preferred less radical, modernist code-names like "Free Khmer" or "Khmer Worker".

Pol Pot failed his course three years in a row. His ship arrived home in 1953. The previous day, King Sihanouk had declared martial law. Cambodia's independence movement was becoming radicalised by French colonial forces. His brother Saloth Chhay joined the Cambodian and Vietnamese Communists, and took him along. The Vietnamese began teaching Pot to "work with the masses". To someone raised in the palace, this was a patronising slight, like his failure to rise quickly to leadership, despite overseas experience. He decided, "Khmers should do everything on their own".

Cambodia did not need to learn or import anything from its neighbours. Rather, it would recover its pre-Buddhist glory by rebuilding the powerful economy of the medieval Angkor kingdom, and regain ancient "lost territory" from Vietnam and Thailand. Pol Pot treasured the Cambodian "race", not its individual members. National



Pol Pot: one of the 20th century's most brutal mass murderers

impurities included the foreign-educated (with the exception of his Paris group) and "hereditary enemies", especially Vietnamese. To return Cambodians to their imagined "origins" Pol Pot needed war and secrecy as "the basis" of the revolution. He never admitted he was Saloth Sar.

After French and Vietnamese forces left Cambodia, Pol Pot rose in the Communist ranks. In 1962 he became party leader after his predecessor,

a former Buddhist monk, mysteriously disappeared. He consolidated his control during eight years of guerrilla warfare (1967-75), using the code-name "Pol". The Communist Party of Kampuchea leadership, once rural, Buddhist, moderate and pro-Vietnamese, was now urban, French-educated, radical and anti-Vietnamese. Pol Pot had a thousand Vietnamese-trained comrades quietly murdered. By 1978 their fate was

shared by half the members of the Party Central Committee, which had rarely if ever met.

Several factors favoured the rise of Pol Pot's CPK. Destabilisation of Cambodia began in 1966 after the American escalation in next-door Vietnam. Royal repression increasingly drove veterans of Cambodia's independence struggle into disaffection, where the Pol Pot group subjected them to its plan for a new rebellion. The

Chinese Communists gave Pol Pot's faction support and manoeuvrability against more moderate pro-Vietnamese rivals.

In 1969, embroiled in Vietnam, the US began a secret B-52 bombardment of Cambodia. A year later, Sihanouk was overthrown by the US-backed Lon Nol. The Vietnam war spilled across and a new war tore Cambodia apart. American planes dropped 540,000 tonnes of bombs. One hundred thousand peasants were killed.

Pol Pot's forces used the devastation as an excuse for their brutal, radical policies and purges. In 1973 the CIA reported that Communist recruits were "using damage caused by B-52 strikes as the main theme of their propaganda" and that their campaign had been "effective".

In a 1975 victory speech, Pol Pot claimed "clean victory... without any foreign connection". In the most radical revolution ever, Cambodia cut itself off from the world. Foreign and minority languages were banned, and all neighbouring countries attacked. Rice and endangered wildlife were exported to China in exchange for weapons. Cambodia's cities were emptied, its Buddhist religion and culture destroyed.

Peasants were forced into unpaid collective labour. Families were separated, family meals prohibited. A Khmer Rouge document noted laconically: "There is a little friction with the people. But we can abandon the people, there is no problem."

In this prison camp state, eight million inmates did solitary confinement. And 1.7 million of them were worked, starved or beaten to death. As Pol Pot put it in 1976, "Don't be afraid to lose one or two people of bad background."

Pol Pot claimed to be "four to ten years ahead" of other Asian Communist states, adding, "We have no model in building up our new society." This disguised the influence of Maoism, in the call for a "Super Great Leap Forward", of Stalinism, and even of the French Revolution, copied by redesigning Cambodia's working month into 10-day weeks.

Dissident Communists who favoured "a system of plenty" were considered corrupted by "a little prosperity", "taken to pieces" by material things. Pol Pot could not imagine Cambodia at peace. He shared the traditional Khmer elite's racism, and designs on "lost territories". Raids on Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos began simultaneously in 1977. Pol Pot ordered his troops to "kill the enemy at will, and the contemptible Vietnamese will surely shriek like monkeys screaming all over the forest". His troops were to "tie up the enemy by the throat, shoulders and ribs on both sides, his waist, his thighs, his knees, his calves, his ankles, ... smashing and breaking his head".

Pol Pot was honorifically known as "the Organisation" - one which made speeches, watched movies, was sometimes "busy working", but could be asked favours if one dared. Wedded to this, his first wife Khieu Ponnary reportedly went mad.

One day in 1978, Pol Pot's poster went up in a mess hall in Kompong Thom. Loth Suong gaped. It was his own brother who had been running the country for four years. Terrified, Suong kept quiet.

When Cambodian Communists rebelled in the eastern zone in May 1978, Pol Pot's armies were unable to crush them quickly. The regime broadcast a call not only to "exterminate the 50 million Vietnamese" but also to "purify the masses of the people" of Cambodia. Of 1.5 million easterners, branded as "Khmer bodies with Vietnamese minds", at least 100,000 were exterminated in six months.

In 1979, surviving rebel leaders succeeded Pol Pot, after Manol drove his army into Thailand. Pol Pot predicted that only "spies of the enemy's bones" would remain. His legacy is piles of Cambodian bones. Mass graves mark every district with the bodies of his victims. Yale University's Cambodian Genocide Program has 50 far located 200 "killing field" sites, with a total of 9,000 mass graves. We suspect there may be another 11,000 such pits in Cambodia.

In a secret briefing to his commanders in 1988, Pol Pot blamed most of the killings on "Vietnamese agents". But he de-

fended having massacred defeated officers, soldiers and officials. "This strain of the imperialists had to be totally destroyed," he insisted. In "abandoning Communism" now, Pol Pot added, his movement discards its "peel", but not the fruit inside. "The politics has changed, but the spirit remains the same." The Khmer Rouge predicted their return with this slogan: "When the water rises, the fish eat the ants, but when the water recedes, the ants eat the fish."

In August 1996, the Khmer Rouge began to break up. Pol Pot's former brother-in-law Ieng Sary defected, taking his troops into an alliance with the Cambodian government. This started a scramble among the Khmer Rouge remnants.

In June 1997, Pol Pot suspected Son Sen of planning to follow Sary. He had Sen and his family shot, and drove trucks over the 14 bodies as Pol's dwindling forces fled. In turn, from other Khmer Rouge troops led by Khieu Samphan, Mok, and Nuon Chea.

They soon rounded up Pol Pot, and put him through a jungle show trial. His longtime comrades sentenced him to house arrest in a Khmer Rouge village, where he was allowed to give interviews, complain of mosquitoes, and deny his responsibility for genocide. To say that millions died is too much" was one of his last public statements.

Two weeks ago, another Khmer Rouge mutiny led by Ke Pauk, Pot's former deputy military commander, drove Khieu Samphan, Mok and Nuon Chea to the Thai border. They remain at large, as do Ke Pauk and Ieng Sary. An international tribunal would establish responsibility for the crimes committed when all six met ruled one of the most brutal regimes of the century. If the surviving five escape justice, Pol Pot may have served his purpose.

Ben Kiernan

Saloth Sar (Pol Pot), guerrilla and politician: born Kompong Thom province, Cambodia 19 May 1925; Prime Minister of Cambodia 1976-79; twice married (one daughter); died near Angkor Veng, Cambodia 15 April 1998.

# Sir Ronald Millar

RONALD MILLAR enjoyed two lives, both highly successful. In both he mixed, in his words, with the stars.

Until middle age he was a man of the theatre - actor, playwright and Hollywood scriptwriter. This love of the theatre he had inherited from his actress mother. In the last three decades of his life he achieved another sort of literary fame, as wordsmith to three prime ministers. In the 1979 election campaign he supplied Margaret Thatcher with her defiant "The Old Testament prophesied not say, 'Brothers, I want a consensus'". He also suggested the words attributed to St Francis as she entered Downing Street for the first time as Prime Minister: "Where there is discord, may we bring harmony, where there is error, may we bring truth."

Millar's father died when his son was only 18 months old. He was educated at Charterhouse and after a year studying Classics at King's College, Cambridge, he joined the Navy in 1940. He was invalided out of the service in 1943 and did not resume his studies. After some acting, he found his niche as a playwright, having performed in London before he was 30. Between 1948 and 1954 he turned his back on austere Britain and enjoyed a lucrative career writing scripts for MGM in Hollywood.

On his return, he worked hard as a playwright. In 1964 he adapted Rudolf Besier's play about the Brownings, *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, as a musical, *Robert and Elizabeth*. It enjoyed a long run, as did his *Abelard and Heloise* (1970), based on Helen Waddell's *Peter Abelard*. He also successfully adapted a number of C.P. Snow's novels, notably *The Affair* (1961) and *The Masters*

(1967). An interest in politics led him to write William Clark's novel *Number 10* for the stage (1967): a fictive visit to the house was arranged while Harold Wilson was in office. Millar was a popular writer in the best sense of the term. He could appeal to what is now called Middle England. Politics then intervened.

Millar's longevity as a speechwriter was a tribute to his tact and obedience to the injunction of the successful speechwriter - to help the speaker say what he or she wishes, not what the writer wishes to say. He was not a partisan (by profession he was a playwright and theatre administrator), he was never a member of a party; and he wrote speeches for nearly 30 years for Edward Heath, Margaret Thatcher and John Major, each of whom came to regard one another with emotions ranging from dislike to contempt.

Modern political leaders have to make so many speeches that they need help. A major speech takes some 20 hours to prepare and politicians no longer have that kind of time. The White House has a large unit devoted to speechwriting. A British prime minister can rely on his civil servants to draft speeches on government business. But for election campaigns, party conferences and other political events he has to turn elsewhere.

Millar had already passed 50 when he became involved in speechwriting. A chance dinner conversation in 1969 about how appalling he found Conservative communications led to a summons to Central Office and a meeting with Heath. Henceforth his contacts with politicians were always with those at the top. During the 1970 general election campaign he was suddenly asked to deliver a radio speech, which

he had scripted, in place of a shadow minister who had been awarded it as a consolation for missing out on a television appearance. The shadow minister was Margaret Thatcher.

Millar was never on the same wavelength as Ted Heath. Too often the brooding leader took for granted the services of his wordsmiths and rarely made an effort to engage with the preparation of his speeches. Millar believed in sustaining himself with good food and drink during speechwriting sessions. At four in the morning during the 1970 election a parched and exhausted Millar spied a bottle of whisky and, thinking that he deserved some compensation, moved to it. He was stopped short by a secretary's warning: "That belongs to Mr Heath."

Millar was amused at Hugo Young's characterisation of him as Thatcher's "gag man", where, as she resented the idea that she could not be witty of her own accord. In fact Millar had a special casting role with the speeches, giving his imprimatur to the final version. Shortly before delivery he would spend time alone with Thatcher (as he did with John Major subsequently) and suggest how it should be recited - pauses, emphases - and tone. He would even recite the passages for her. To quote Thatcher - as she quoted Millar - "A speech is a theatrical as well as a political event."

He found writing a Thatcher speech to be hellish and exhilarating. In his 1993 memoirs, *A View from the Wings*, he wrote that it emerged, like the old methods for electing a Tory leader, by "part design, part accident and part a host of disconnected unrelated factors". She expected others to have her energy as they toiled away in the early hours of the morning. As

opposition leader she dismissed drafts from Chris Patten as having "no theme" and a contribution from John Biffen as "a waste of time". Her staff maintained an "ideas for speeches" file, which included old press cuttings, quotations, drafts from ministers, academics and friendly journalists, party officials and advisers. Millar recalled "the agony, the despair and lack of sleep, the sheer impossibility that a coherent sequence of words and thoughts and images and policies could ever emerge, the excitement when a faint glimmer of hope appeared on the horizon". Then he could begin the process of "Ronnification".

Millar's rules for speechwriting are a model to his successors. A speech is to be spoken and heard, rather than read. Use simple everyday words and short sentences - "Write it tight and taut." Be positive and modest. Above all, the writer must be able to hear the voice of the leader in his head. The journalist Roger Carroll wrote speeches for James Callaghan in 1979 and made a point of reading and listening to tapes of Callaghan's speeches so that he could master the cadences. Ted Heath would not make the time to allow speechwriters to share his thinking. One of his helpers said, "He expected the speechwriters to be able to communicate for him the thought that he was incapable of communicating."

A successful speechwriter usually has a close personal relationship with the politician. So many politicians cry out, when faced with the text, "This is not me." In Thatcher's case, she would hand the draft to Millar.

Millar was a great believer in accidents. That was how he got involved with Heath in the first place. Thatcher and then her successor. His most famous



Millar: 'Write it tight and taut' Photograph: Rex Features

line was inserted in Margaret Thatcher's conference speech in 1980. She and the Government were in trouble and there was much talk that there would be a U-turn in economic policy. He based the phrase "The lady's not for turning" on Christopher Fry's play *The Lady's Not for Turning*. He expected the media to concentrate on the preceding line, "You turn if you want to". Instead, newspapers and broadcasts led with the new phrase, which seemed to epitomise Thatcher.

Because Thatcher liked Millar, and perhaps because he was a bachelor, he often spent time in her company. A political leader needs a crony or a friend, somebody with whom she can gossip and relax and be sure that the friend will not ask for any-

thing in return or betray confidences. Although devoted to her he was also capable of speaking frankly to "Margaret". Sometimes his disapproval was implicit, as when Chris Patten was regularly passed over for preference. She had Millar in attendance during the fraught negotiations over what to say in the Westland confidence debate ("I may not be Prime Minister in 24 hours") and how she should defend herself while keeping the recently resigned Leon Brittan and Michael Heseltine both on board.

He was with her just before her famous Bruges speech in 1988. Although the impact was explosive he had done much to soften its tone. "You don't have to show how strong you are, Margaret," he said. He vainly

advised against the "Back to Basics" passage in John Major's conference speech in 1993.

His experience of comforting actors who suffered last-minute nerves came in handy for getting a prime minister into the appropriate mood before delivering a speech. For Thatcher this involved getting her to relax. Hours before giving the 1993 conference speech Major was in a state, at the end of a dreadful week. A critical press, disloyal leaking from cabinet colleagues and constant sniping from Thatcher's friends as well as her own unhelpful interventions had got to him. Millar spent the time not rehearsing the speech but encouraging Major to pull himself together.

Millar regarded Major as the best off-the-cuff communicator of the leaders he worked with. Heath had no feel for words and was not interested in trying. Thatcher worked hard and achieved a kind of stardom. Major was capable of doing it for himself. When he addressed a farewell party for one of the No 10 staff an admiring Douglas Hurd (who had suffered as Ted Heath's wordsmith) said to Millar, "A nice speech, did you do it?" "No," was the reply. "Did you?"

Millar was much in demand for speeches. On one occasion he drafted a speech for the Lord Mayor of London at the Guildhall Banquet as well as Margaret Thatcher's reply. When the speeches were exchanged, she commented on how the former's speech was like one of Millar's. Another public figure presumed too readily that Millar was a ready perk for people such as himself and got him to write a speech. After waiting a month or so in vain after the speech Millar sent him an invoice.

Millar was a man of great charm and impeccable manners.

He was gentle and never forced his opinions. In the speech-writing sessions his "Do you really think so?" or "Maybe" was code for dissent. Some of his dislikes stemmed from identification with the party leader. Thus, the BBC had too many "left-wingers", as did the Civil Service; witness the way some in John Major's Private Office in No 10 began to distance themselves in the 1992 election as they anticipated a Labour victory. His memoirs do not convey his sense of betrayal at Sir Geoffrey Howe's fatal (to Thatcher) resignation statement in November 1990. But he was also disappointed at the attacks from Thatcher and her entourage on John Major. Listening to her criticisms he would reply, "After all, you chose him." He was taken aback in 1992 to be told by a friend that he was now considered to be on "the other side".

Of course Millar had another life as a successful playwright and, from 1977, deputy chairman of the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. He was well off and refused any payment for his speechwriting services ("Very sensible," said C.P. Snow - but was such a mercenary man serious?). As with all speechwriters, satisfaction came from the applause that greeted his words, when spoken by the political leader. But, recently, glancing through a volume of one prime minister's speeches, he metaphorically raised his eyebrows when he saw that the copyright for the speeches was - Margaret Thatcher's.

Dennis Kavanagh

Ronald Graeme Millar, playwright, screenwriter and speechwriter: born Reading, Berkshire 12 November 1919; deputy chairman, Theatre Royal, Haymarket 1977-98; Kt 1980; died London 16 April 1998.

## DEATHS

**MADDOCKS:** Dr Lucy Bottenfield, beloved wife of John Robert Maddocks (deceased), died at Chislehurst peacefully, after a short illness, in her 94th year. Much loved and greatly missed by her daughter, two step-granddaughters and three step-grandsons. Tom, William and Adam

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

and the many people she had helped. Enquiries to W. C. Jones & Sons Ltd, 0181-309 2002.

**RAPPS:** (nee Rodzinski), Helen, at home, over Easter, aged 77. Beloved mother of Miriam and Zina, and grand-mother of Darius, Roman, Hannah, Naomi and Sara. Funeral at All Saints' Russian Orthodox Church, Emms-

man Gardens, London SW7, on Tuesday 21 April at 1.15pm. Donations to United Palace or flowers and enquiries to Loverton & Sons, 222 Eversholt Street, London WC1, 0171-387 0075.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**LANGMIDGLEY:** Violet. Celebrating your birthday today: the best and kindest

of mothers; the staunchest of friends. Remembering also the good times with Doris and the laughter. Your family and friends.

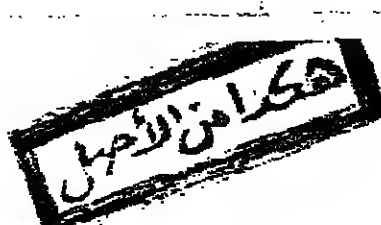
**Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** may be telephoned to 0171-293 2002 (answering machine 0171-293 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

## Birthdays

Mrs Srinav Bandaranaike, former prime minister of Sri Lanka, 82; Miss Clare Francis, novelist and yachtswoman, 52; Mrs Anne Harris, former National Chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 73; Miss Olivia Hussey, actress, 47;

Mr James Last, bandleader, 69; The Hon Sir Humphrey Maud, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth, 64; Mr Riccardo Patrese, grand prix driver, 44; Mrs Doris Saini ("Miss Read"), writer, 85; The Right Rev John Yates, former Bishop of Gloucester, 73.

**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, and Sophie, Countess of Wessex, will marry on 19 June at Westminster Abbey. The bride will be Lady Helen Taylor, daughter of the 10th Marquess of Eglar. The groom will be Lord Nicholas Windsor, son of the Duke of Windsor. The ceremony will be broadcast on television.









## Blackpool's tower a target

By Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

SOME of Britain's best-known seaside attractions such as the Blackpool Tower and Eastbourne pier could be sold under plans being considered by First Leisure, the bingo to bars leisure group led by Michael Grade.

The company said yesterday that it had received a number of unsolicited approaches for its resorts division which includes the two landmark tourist attractions as well as Llandudno pier in north Wales.

First Leisure stressed that the talks are at an early stage and that no firm offers have been tabled. Analysts suggested the division could fetch around £120m. They said buyers could include venture capital groups or a management buy-out.

The Blackpool Tower was built over a century ago and modelled on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Eastbourne pier opened in 1886 and was recently refurbished to include a new wine bar, restaurant and amusement area.

First Leisure acquired the Tower and the other attractions when it bought the resorts division 16 years ago but it is thought the company now wants to concentrate on nightclubs, health

clubs and bowling. It has already disposed of its bingo division after a £38m management buy-out three months ago.

There has been speculation that the decision to consider selling the resorts is linked to the Labour Party dropping the Winter Gardens as a conference venue in favour of Brighton.

More than a million people visit Blackpool Tower every year and it boasts a top 10 popularity among Britain's fee-paying attractions. It contains themed areas such as insect exhibition Bugworld, an aquarium and model dinosaurs and the famous ballroom complete with organ in the basement.

First Leisure's statement helped to boost the company's share price by 30p to 367p. The stock was given a further lift when Dresner Kleinwort Benson upgraded its recommendation on the shares to 'buy'.

First Leisure has been the subject of intense criticism in recent weeks over a controversial pay package that could see Mr Grade earn £4.5m over four years. The pay deal prompted almost 45 per cent of shareholders vote against the re-election of three non-executive directors. Two new non-executives are to be appointed to placate investors.

## Safeway rolls out a better loyalty card

By Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

SAFEWAY, the supermarket group which has been losing ground to its rivals, increased the stakes in the loyalty card battle yesterday when it unveiled a £20m package of improvements to its ABC card.

Shoppers spending upwards of £160 a month at Safeway will now be entitled to double points on their ABC card and those spending over £240 will qualify for triple points the following month.

Safeway said the initiative would increase incentives for shoppers to remain loyal and use the stores for their main shop rather than for top-up purchases. It said the average



Crushing response: Colin Smith, chief executive, fights back with some shoppers getting triple points on their loyalty card

family spends more than £60 a week on groceries, meaning most families stood to benefit from the higher rewards if they shopped regularly at the store.

"We're breaking ranks as we want to make it even more rewarding for customers to spend more with Safeway - so the more you spend, the higher the reward," said chief executive Colin Smith.

Safeway plans to support the initiative with a big television and press campaign. Shoppers currently get one point for every pound spent at Safeway. They can redeem their points through discounts on purchases, free products, in-store services, family offers or

donations to charity. Analysts said the move showed Safeway was still striving to revive sales momentum, which has not matched the industry trend. Tesco and Sainsbury's also operate loyalty

cards though Asda has decided not to launch one nationally. Safeway's recent problems have made it the subject of speculation with Asda seen as the most likely bidder. Safeway shares were unchanged at 364p

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

### Premier is still struggling

FOR a lesson in how acquisitions can go wrong, look no further than Premier Farnell. Back in 1996, Farnell, which was then an electronic components distributor with an enviable track record, paid £1.8bn for Premier, a similar business in the US. Two years and two profit warnings later Premier Farnell, as the business is now called, is worth just £1bn.

This is value destruction on a heroic scale and the man responsible - chief executive Howard Poulson - was rightly pushed out last January. What's more, the company is still destroying value. By its own admission, Premier Farnell currently earns just half the return on equity it needs to cover its cost of capital, which is about 11 per cent.

But, as the investment gurus are fond of pointing out, the past is no guide to the future and every share is worth buying if it's cheap enough. The question for investors is whether Premier Farnell is a recovery story waiting to happen.

On the evidence of yesterday's full year results, which showed pre-tax profits in line with the company's January forecast of £139m, there is still plenty of reason to be cautious. Growth figures are pedestrian; adjusted for currencies and various other one-off items, sales grew by a pedestrian 0 per cent. Spending on computer systems and start-up costs for new catalogues mean that profit growth was not much better.

Despite the lavish promises made at the time of the merger, of the benefits that could be squeezed from cross-selling the two companies' product ranges, Premier Farnell admits that there is still a lot to be done. And Morton Mandel, the Premier boss who made a packet from the takeover and is running the merged company until a new chief executive is found, is reluctant to promise any tangible benefits in the near future.

So, for the time being, Premier Farnell will manage no more than pedestrian growth. Analysts are pencilling in profit figures of just £145m, placing the shares, which fell 1p to 368p yesterday, on a forward p/e ratio of about 14. Given the continuing risks, steer clear.

### Albert Fisher in a mire

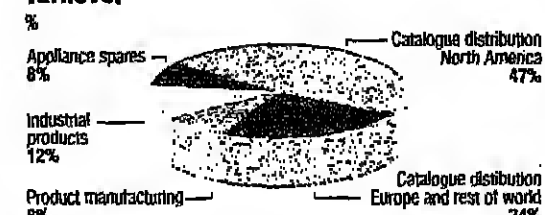
STEPHEN WALLS may have stepped down to become non-executive chairman at Albert Fisher, the poorly performing fruit and vegetable group, but

### Premier Farnell: At a glance

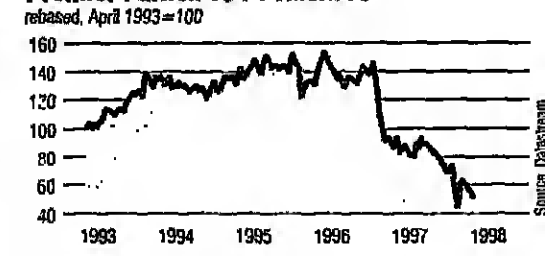
Market value: £999m, share price 368 (-1p)

Five-year record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	320	514	539	983	744
Pre-tax profits (£m)	49	59	111	173	139
Earnings per share (p)	23.2	27.3	54.8	35.5	25.3
Dividends per share (p)	7.0	8.6	10.3	12.0	12.9

#### Turnover



#### Premier Farnell vs FT Allshare



the stock market will not remember him kindly. After much bluster and promises to move the group away from the commodity end of the business, he leaves the company with a series of low-margin businesses, still at the risk of the weather and crop disease.

The shares have been an appalling investment. In the past year they have underperformed the market by 50 per cent. Last year a mystery bidder came and went and a plan to sell the problematic seafood operations fell through.

Shareholders are left with a mess. The group recorded a pre-tax loss of £23m after exceptional charges of £35m in the six months to February. Management now intends to keep most of the seafood operations, though the US seafood interests will be sold.

The most surprising aspect of yesterday's results was the decision to maintain the dividend. A cut had been expected and is already factored into the share price so management is not getting any credit for its actions. Albert Fisher is now paying out more in dividends than it is earning and one can only imagine that the payout will be cut later in the year.

Neil England, who joined as chief executive last year, wants to improve margins and build leading businesses in sectors such as fresh fruit, prepared salads and sauces. But this sounds horribly familiar.

Chiquita, the American food group that was rumoured to have been the mystery bidder last year, may come knocking again. The shares - down 1.25p to 28.25p - are certainly cheaper this time

around. On a forward p/e ratio of just 8 the shares are not worth selling, so hang on and hope for a bid.

### Caverdale bikes ahead

IT HAS been a landmark year for Caverdale, the motors and accessories group. It sold its motor dealerships to Quicks for £46m in November and returned £10m to shareholders. With the car dealerships gone the company is a much smaller entity focused on its industrial products and leisure businesses which it says offer higher margins and greater growth opportunities.

This is borne out by last year's full year results which show operating profits on continuing operations rising by 76 per cent to £3m.

The industrial products business essentially sells industrial parts to the motor trade, local authorities and farmers. It's not a business to set the blood racing, but is meant to provide the ballast to Caverdale's real growth area - the sale of motorcycle and bicycle accessories.

Caverdale has four motorcycle accessory stores and plans a further 10 this year. It already has a successful mail order operation. Completing the picture is a Raleigh bicycle and parts distributor acquired in November, and the recently acquired XM Group which makes and distributes marine products.

The shares closed up 4p yesterday at 149.5p. On full year profit forecasts of £5m the shares trade on a forward rating of 13. About right.

# Liffe members vote on changes

By Lea Patterson

THE 220 members of Liffe, London's financial futures and options exchange, met last night to vote on plans to cut down the exchange's unwieldy board and refocus its much criticised management. Last night's extraordinary general meeting was the first concrete step taken by Liffe management to resolve the crisis that has recently engulfed the exchange.

Founded in 1982, Liffe quickly grew to become the second largest futures exchange in the world. For years, Liffe, which enthusiastically embraced the "open outcry" trading methods pioneered in Chicago, was widely regarded as the cutting edge of the world's financial exchanges. "It was innovative and imaginative - a great place to be part of," said one Liffe trader.

Over the last year, though, things have taken a marked turn for the worse. Liffe has lost market share at a remarkable rate to the Deutsche Terminbörse (DTB), Germany's rival exchange which has launched an aggressive and audacious attack on Liffe. In a matter of months, the DTB cut Liffe's share of the prestigious German Bund futures market by more than half. At the moment, the DTB has a 70 per cent share of the Bund, and its share is rising all the time. It marks a dramatic reversal of fortunes for the two exchanges. Only a year ago Liffe had a 70 per cent share of trade in the Bund. DTB's share was 30 per cent.

Liffe's members have been up in arms at what they regard as the failure of the exchange's management to respond to competition from DTB's electronic screen-based system. Following sustained criticism from its membership over the last few months, Liffe's board finally came up with a series of proposals designed to safeguard the exchange's future.

Liffe members are to vote on these proposals at two egms. The first, held last night, covers the structure of the board. Liffe is proposing a reduction in the number of board members - currently there are 24 - and the appointment of a full-time chairman. Jack Wigglesworth, the current part-time chairman, is expected to stand down next month.

At the second egm, which will be held next month, Liffe members will discuss the thorny issue of its ownership structure, which could lead to a radical rethink of Liffe's mutual status. The board is also proposing that the exchange introduce electronic trading. It is intended the electronic system will run in parallel with the more traditional open outcry method.

Liffe members attribute the exchange's recent decline to a combination of factors, including the inflexibility of the management, the initial reluctance of Liffe to embrace electronic trading and vested interests that lie with London's futures exchange.

One Liffe trader said: "A number of people - mainly the institutions - saw the electronic screen trading coming. But Liffe's unwieldy board, together with the vested interests of certain parts of the membership, made it impossible for us to make decisions."

The vested interests referred to were members of the "local" community - individuals who speculate on Liffe with their own money. Locals currently account for around 30 per cent of Liffe's volumes.

One trader with a major institution said many local traders were desperate to maintain open outcry. "They [the locals] perceive that with open outcry they have an advantage over traders elsewhere in the world."

"It is certainly the case that most locals will be staying with open outcry for as long as possible," admitted one local trader.

Not all locals, though, are supporters of the status quo. A few prominent locals have been among the most vociferous critics of the exchange. David Matimoe, a veteran open outcry trader recently honoured by Liffe for the volume of Bunds he traded at the exchange, is among those who have switched sides and now trades with the DTB.

David Kite, the Liffe board member who resigned last month in a dispute over members' fees, has also been a fierce critic of the management. At the time of his

resignation, he said: "The chairman and chief executive remind me of the captain and chief engineer on the *Titanic* thinking their ship is unsinkable. Gentlemen, the iceberg is just around the corner."

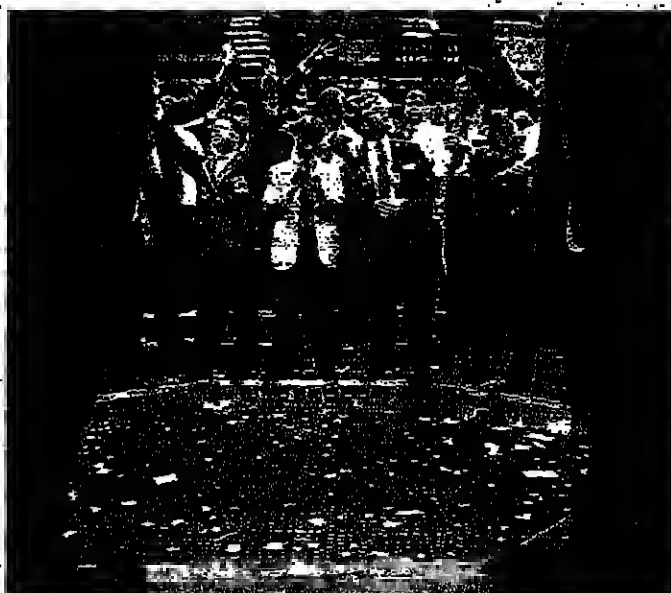
But it is wrong to say Liffe has been completely defeated by the Germans. Its open outcry system still has a significant advantage over electronic dealing when it comes to the more complex transactions such as the Eurodollar, now the most popular contract at Liffe.

One trader explained: "There are only four trading strategies you can use with a Bund. Other contracts, such as the Eurodollar, are far more complex. You need an incredibly sophisticated electronic system if a trader is going to be able to do as many things with the screens as he can with open outcry."

Recent market share figures seem to bear testimony to Liffe's advantage in these more complex transactions. Last month Liffe's volume of trades in three month Eurodollar contracts was more than 100 times greater than DTB's.

If Liffe is to survive, according to the trader, the board needs to be slimmed down, it needs to adopt electronic trading and it needs to change its membership structure. Although many traders approve of the proposals on board structure and electronic trading, a significant proportion feel the management has not gone far enough.

In particular, numerous members believe the exchange must consider a merger - possibly with arch-rival DTB - if it is to remain a significant player in the world's financial markets. So far, Liffe has ruled out such a move.



Open outcry: The trading methods at Liffe give it an advantage with some contracts, but electronic trading looks likely to be introduced as well

### Aegis stake for sale

VENTURE capital groups and family shareholders have put a 42.5 per cent stake in Aegis, the media buyer, up for sale. The company said Warburg, Pincus Investors, Electra Private Equity Partners and the Gross family will sell up to 353 million shares.

Aegis also said it started 1998 with "good momentum", and that results in the first two months are running ahead of 1997 and ahead of objectives. Cazenove & Co is acting as lead manager and sole book runner, while Hoare Govett Corporate Finance Limited is acting as co-lead manager for the offering.

### Wace sells

WACE, the troubled printing group, is selling four of its divisions to its management in a £53m deal backed by Electra Fleming, the venture capitalists. The buy-out team is being led by Brian Dudley, formerly chief executive of Regus and the new group is planning to make further acquisitions in the industry. Together, the four divisions made operating profits of £4.2m on sales of £78.2m. Wace unveiled a loss of £10.3m for 1997 compared with a profit of £11.9m in the previous year.

### El Nino strikes

ALBERT FISHER, the underperforming fruit and vegetable group that was the subject of an aborted takeover approach last year, has reported half year pre-tax losses of £23m after £35m of exceptional charges. These included £4m of fees related to the failed sale of the seafood business and a £17m goodwill write off relating to the Roem Dutch seafood operations. The strong pound and the effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon affected trading. However, the company said it expects a better performance in the second half.

### Fii steps west

FII, the footwear group which supplies Marks & Spencer, is closing down its factory in Northampton with the loss of 110 jobs. Continued pressure on prices which has eroded margins has forced the group to move production to Bridgend in Wales.

## Boardroom salaries are booming

FRESH evidence emerged yesterday that boardroom salaries are booming after several groups revealed a sharp rise in directors' pay packets last year.

Howard Dyer, chairman of Ascot Holdings, the engineer, saw his total pay rise more than 65 per cent last year to £683,000. He received a bonus of £164,000 on top of a basic salary of £353,000.

The group's annual report also reveals that Mike Vincent,

who resigned as a director of last September, received a payoff of £22,000. He also made a profit of £272,000 from selling share options.

John Grant, Ascot's new chief executive and finance director and former finance director of LucasVarity, who was appointed last July, received £252,000 for less than six months' work.

Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of Rolls Royce, the engineering giant, received a pay rise of

almost 40 per cent last year. He was paid a total of £550,000 including a bonus of £160,000.

John Rose, chief executive of the group, also saw his pay jump from £314,000 to £471,000. Rolls Royce's total boardroom wage bill increased by 36 per cent to £3.2m.

Meanwhile Alan Enson received £200,000 on leaving IML, the engineering group, on top of a total pay package of £245,000.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Barclays Bank (F)	3,87m (1.73m)	0.120m (0.50m)	0.83p (4.03p)	nil (-)
Caverdale (F)	251.5m (245.8m)	4.3m (5.4m)	12.4p (16.3p)	4.0p (-)
Chapman Racecourse (F)	172.21m (2.18m)	0.400m (0.278m)	nil (4.5p)	1.0p (0.00p)
Donatascio (F)	10.23m (8.23m)	1.74m (0.63m)	8.4p (2.5p)	2.25p (-)
Albert Fisher (F)	619.8m (668.9m)	-22.9m (19.1m)	-3.6p (1.97p)	1.85p (1.85p)
General Cable (F)	111.85m (55.7m)	-68.95m (-29.80m)	-22.5p (-4.9p)	nil (-)
IML Energy Group (F)	81.7m (72.24m)	7.34m (6.88m)	10.55p (8.26p)	4.7p (4.45p)
Jordan International (F)	345.8m (83.2m)	-341.2m (-765.9m)	-4.5p (-14.3p)	nil (-)
Premier Farnell (F)	743.8m (882.8m)	139.0m (173.0m)	25.3p (36.5p)	12.5p (12.0p)
Sainsbury Shopping (F)	8.9m (6.60m)	-3.0m (1.78m)	31.78p (15.8p)	3.4p (-)
Wace Group (F)	288.5m (323.1m)	-76.4m (-2.04m)	100.1p (8.4p)	nil (-)

(F) = Fiscal; (-) = deficit







## Interest rate fears put the brake on equities

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

FEARS of higher interest rates reined back equities. Worries that the Monetary Policy Committee will have little option but to accept the argument of the hawk unseated the stock market and Footsie suffered its third reverse in a row - off 72.1 points at 6,002. It was the highest fall for five weeks.

There was also uncertainty about German rates - the Bundesbank decides today - and concern about weak Asian markets. A difficult opening few hours in New York was another inhibiting influence. But selling was light, with losses among the hitherto high-flying financials doing much of the Footsie damage.

Lloyds TSB led the retreat. In busy trading the shares fell 83p to 995p as some of the takeover enthusiasm which has swept the shares higher in the past two weeks evaporated and SBC Warburg trimmed its profits forecasts and took the shares

off its buy list. Schroders was another to feel the chill wind of doubt. The voting shares dropped 98p to 2,900p and the non-voters 130p to 2,480p. There was talk that some of the Schroders-related funds had decided the shares had stretched too far into the stratosphere and had decided to lock in some profits.

Others hit by moderate profit-taking rather than any belief the financial bubble had burst included HSBC, off 91p to 1,900p, and Standard Chartered, 35p to 1,004p. The rout also embraced National Westminster Bank (30p to 1,173p); Norwich Union (13.25p to 465p) and Halifax (17p to 871p).

For once engineers and miners headed the Footsie leader board. RioTinto improved 28p to 332p and Dresser Kleinwort Benson support. The investment house set a 900p target, saying the recent recovery in metal prices had not yet fil-

tered through to the shares. GKN responded to its Italian alliance with a 32p advance to 1,635p and Stebe rose 27p to 1,272p. Williams, the security group, jumped 14p to 470p after AXA Sun Life disclosed it had lifted its stake by more than one percentage point to just over 5 per cent.

Carpetright edged ahead 5p to 370p as chairman Lord Harris took advantage of the downturned price, buying 100,000 shares at 363p, and Great Universal Stores put on 11p to 828.5p, indicating it could be on its way to victory in the fierce battle for Argos. Little changed at 635p. MFI fell 3.5p to 93p.

First Leisure Corporation jumped 30p to 367p on the possible sale of its seaside activities.

The mid and small cap indices gave ground and the general lacklustre atmosphere swayed through the computer sector, although Sage rallied 85p to 1,205p, helped along by

a DKB target price of 1,450p. General Cable rose 8p to 165p following the 669m bid from Telewest Communications, off 3.5p to 85.5p.

Newcomers survived the rather unfriendly environment. Ottakar's, the books retailer, enjoyed a strong opening chapter to quoted life, closing at 203.5p from its 153p placing. Without a dom-

inant shareholder, it is seen as likely fodder for a predator. Oxford Glycolines placed at 280p ended at 286.5p.

Voss Net, suspended at 155p when its nominated adviser quit, returned at 132.5p after Butterfield took on the role of adviser and stockbroker to the AIM-traded information group.

Lead, the car security group suspended at 31.5p last month, should return to market today. The company acquired Sexton, which installs telephone equipment and security systems in cars, for £10m. As part of the deal 700 shares were placed at 25p.

Presbury, the Nick Lesau property vehicle, is another due to return today. The shares were suspended at 5.75p while the company paid MEPC £103m for a property portfolio.

Aegis, the media buying group, fell 7p to 72.5p after 42.5 per cent of the capital was put up for sale.

Arziva, formerly Cowie, reversed 36.5p to 475p. The market fretted about the finance division which, at the yearly meeting, chairman Sir James McKinnon said would struggle to match last year's performance. He said the bus and motor divisions had traded well in the first quarter.

Old takeover favourite Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, attracted attention, gaining 2.5p to 172.5p.

Rumours of encouraging developments in Angola lifted Petra Diamonds 4p to 139.5p and the accompanying warrants 15p to 111p.

Ionica, the wireless telephone group, continued its modest rally, putting on 14p to 95.5p in response to a 22 per cent customer increase.

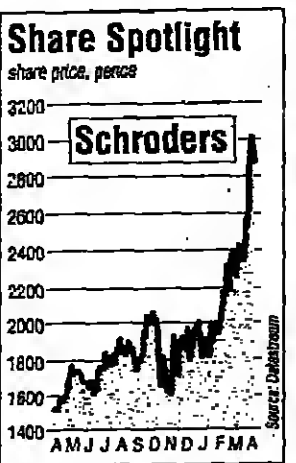
Pace Micro's roller-coaster performance took the shares down 14p to 68p but Dialog Corporation remained firm on the ABN Amro recommendation, gaining a further 11.5p to 187.5p.

## TAKING STOCK

PROTEUS International held at 64.5p. The shares of the pharmaceutical group, hit 86.5p earlier this year following the development of a BSE test. Kevin Leech, chairman of ML Laboratories, can exercise an option on 28.5 per cent of the capital at the end of this month. Heavy turnover in Proteus shares in the past few weeks has led some to believe corporate action could occur and Mr Leech may be tempted to sell on his option.

ABACUS Recruitment, which has surged from 16p two years ago to 370p, moves up from AIM to full listing today. The group has cash in the bank and is known to be looking for acquisitions.

HAMLEYS, the toy retailer, slipped to 272.5p. Stockbroker Satherlands is keen on the shares, forecasting profits will be up £1.3m to £9.4m this year and hit £10.2m next.



52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	Div Yld
Alcoholic Beverages								
484 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
485 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
486 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
487 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
488 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
489 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
490 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
491 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
492 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
493 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
494 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
495 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
496 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
497 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
498 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
499 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0
500 AB InBev	6,000	4,800	2.1	600	0	0	0	0

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	Div Yld
Banking								
100 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
101 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
102 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
103 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
104 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
105 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
106 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
107 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
108 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
109 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
110 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
111 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
112 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
113 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
114 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
115 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
116 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
117 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
118 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
119 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
120 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	Div Yld
Banking								
121 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
122 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
123 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
124 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
125 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
126 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
127 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
128 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
129 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
130 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
131 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
132 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
133 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
134 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
135 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
136 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
137 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
138 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
139 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
140 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	Div	Div Yld
Banking								
141 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
142 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
143 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
144 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
145 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
146 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
147 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
148 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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151 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
152 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
153 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
154 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
155 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
156 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
157 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
158 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
159 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
160 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0

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Banking								
161 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
162 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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164 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
165 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
166 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
167 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
168 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
169 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
170 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
171 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
172 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
173 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
174 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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176 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
177 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
178 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
179 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
180 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0

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181 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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184 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
185 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
186 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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191 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
192 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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196 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
197 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
198 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0	0	0
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Banking								
201 HSBC	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 American Bk	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Bank of Am	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Bank of N York	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Citibank	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 JPMorgan Chase	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Wells Fargo	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
Insurance								
201 Aflac	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Allstate	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 American Intl	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 CNA	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 GEICO	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 MetLife	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Prudential	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Sun Life	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Travelers	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 USAA	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
Technology								
201 Apple	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Microsoft	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Oracle	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Salesforce	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Tesla	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Amazon	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Facebook	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Google	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 IBM	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Intel	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 NVIDIA	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 VMware	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Cisco	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Dell	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 HP	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Lenovo	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Samsung	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Sony	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 LG	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Huawei	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Xiaomi	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Oppo	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Vivo	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Realme	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 OnePlus	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Nothing	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Honor	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Meizu	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 ZTE	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 TCL	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Nubia	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Blackview	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Ulefone	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Doogee	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Umidigi	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
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201 Oukitel	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
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201 Umidigi	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Bluboo	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Oukitel	2,000	1,500	2.1	150	0	0		
201 Blackview								



# Just like any other marriage, monetary union needs tolerance



**DAVID MACKIE**  
ON THE  
LESSONS OF  
THE UK'S  
REGIONS FOR  
THE SUCCESS  
OF EMU

LIKE marriage, European economic and monetary union is supposed to be forever. So, with divorce rates on the rise, it is only natural to ask what will make this particular union last? While economists may not have much to say about most marriages, they do have a lot of advice for the 11 countries about to walk down the Emu aisle.

Unfortunately, not all of this advice is likely to prove helpful. Moreover, economists rarely mention the most important glue that will hold Emu participants together in wedded bliss.

Most economists argue that to make Emu last, Europe needs a more flexible labour market and a more centralised tax and benefit system. Together, so the argument goes, these will limit the regional tensions that would otherwise arise when the freedom to set monetary policy on the basis of local conditions is given up.

However, it is far from clear that the first will be all that helpful and the second is probably not necessary.

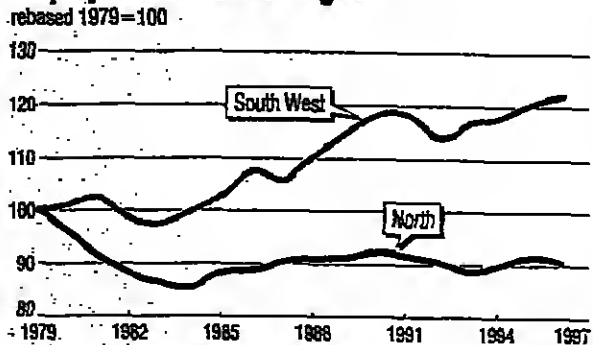
To understand how Emu will work, consider an already-existing monetary union that has been functioning reasonably well for almost 300 years—the United Kingdom. If you look at the UK as a small monetary union, it is clear that regional divergences are a pervasive feature of the system.

Some regions prosper, while others do not. And these divergences—which are evident in regional income levels and unemployment rates—can persist for extended periods of time, even in a monetary union with a flexible labour market and a highly centralised tax and benefit system.

So how does the UK monetary union work? Let's consider the relative performance of two UK regions during the 1980s—the North and the South-west.

The early 1980s recession hit these two regions very differently. From 1979 to 1983, employment in the North fell by 15 per cent, while in the South-west it fell by only 3 per cent.

Employment in two UK regions



In the subsequent business cycle expansion, which lasted through 1990, employment in the North rose by 8 per cent, while in the South-west it rose by 21 per cent.

Here we have two regions whose fortunes diverged sharply during the 1980s. However, in a monetary union, with only one central bank, with only one interest rate to set, while the Bank of England may have wanted to set a lower interest rate in the North than in the South-west, it was unable to do so.

So how did the UK monetary union adjust to these regional divergences? The economists' textbook model argues that workers should flow from the relatively depressed region to the relatively prosperous one, while capital should flow in the opposite direction. This, in theory, should restore regional fortunes.

Well, what happened in practice? Indeed, workers did leave the depressed North and move to the prosperous South-west. But while this migration eased labour shortages in the South-west and reduced unemployment in the North, it exacerbated the divergences in demand between the two regions.

Workers and their families who moved to the South-west purchased houses, had their hair cut, went to restaurants, all of which added to an already buoyant regional economy. The demand for such services fell in the North.

Moreover, capital flowed in

the same direction as workers. Instead of capital flowing to the North—where new factories would generate work for the unemployed—it flowed to the South-west, and the new jobs created made the South-west labour market even tighter.

UK experience demonstrates that success usually breeds success. A relatively prosperous region tends to become even more prosperous, while a relatively depressed region tends to become even more depressed.

A flexible labour market and mobile capital did not help resolve the regional imbalances which developed in the UK in the 1980s. People in the South-west got relatively richer, while those in the North got relatively poorer.

The lesson for Emu is that greater labour market flexibility will not necessarily restore regional fortunes. Labour market reforms, while they may be desirable for other reasons, are not a substitute for an independent monetary policy.

Of course, at this point, the tax and benefit system stepped in to limit the divergence in incomes between the North and the South-west. More taxes were paid in the South-west and more social benefits were paid in the North. This was obviously an important safety valve, limiting the build-up of regional tensions.

But, even after the tax and benefit system had done its work, the relative prosperity of households in the South-west was considerably higher at the

end of the 1980s than at the beginning.

If a well-functioning monetary union like the UK needs a centralised tax and benefit system to ease regional tensions, it is natural to ask whether Emu needs a similar safety valve. Somewhat surprisingly, the answer is no.

The big European countries have both prosperous and depressed regions within their borders. Over time, prosperous regions across Europe tend to become more prosperous together—partly because they share the same industries—while the depressed regions tend to remain depressed together.

Consider, for example, a slump in the car market. In the UK monetary union, this would depress the North relative to the South-west. But in Emu, Germany, France, Italy, and Spain would all be affected by a slump in the car market because they each have a car producing region. To the extent that regional transfers of taxes and benefits need to take place within Emu, these will tend to be within each country rather than from one country to another. And the existing fiscal systems are able to do just that.

So, if labour flexibility is likely to prove unhelpful, and a centralised tax and benefit system is unnecessary, what will be the glue that holds the Emu marriage together? Quite simply, it is tolerance. The UK monetary union has held together for 300 years not because all regional divergences have been ironed out, but rather because regional divergences have been accepted as part of what it means to be a single nation.

This, more than anything, highlights the political nature of Emu. It may or may not deliver economic benefits, but it will only last if there is a high degree of political integration.

At the end of the day, tolerance is the glue that will hold Emu together, as it is in any other marriage.

David Mackie is UK economist at JP Morgan.

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS

### JOHN WILLCOCK



LORD SWAYTHLING retired from his manifold business and charitable activities yesterday a few months earlier than his 70th birthday, on 6 August, due to ill health. The Eton and Cambridge educated Lord has certainly had a varied career.

He is currently chairman of Rothmans International, a post he has held for the last 10 years. He is also a director of Chelsfield, Elliot Bernard's property group, and a chairman of the trustees of the Heather Trust for the Arts.

The arts job has entailed Lord Swaythling attempting to rehouse the Gilbert Collection of decorative arts in the south wing of Somerset House, the vast Georgian building on the Thames's north bank which used to be completely filled with civil servants working for the Inland Revenue. Lord Swaythling says the pace of the move has not been helped by the present Government, which when it comes to the arts "is as mean as the Tories".

Mr Bernard publicly thanked Lord Swaythling for his help yesterday, saying: "Lord Swaythling joined the board of Chelsfield prior to the company's flotation. We shall be losing his wise counsel, honed by a long and distinguished business career."

That career has included stints at Samuel Montagu, Orion Bank and J Rothschild Holdings. Lord Swaythling is also holding over the chairmanship of Woburn Golf & Country Club to Rupert Hambr.

Lord Swaythling will be able to indulge his passion for horseracing in his retirement. He still keeps a number of horses in training, and he has served as a steward at Newmarket.

BT HAS moved swiftly to fill the space created by the departure of Bert Roberts, chairman of MCL, who resigned from the BT board after WorldCom snaffled the American phone company.

Coincidentally BT has also had to replace Birgit Brenel, the head of Germany's Expo2000 project, and the former head of the privatisation agency for eastern Germany.

The two new hires joining Sir Iain Vallance are Helen Alexander, chief executive of The Economist Group, and Neville Isdell, chair-

man and chief executive-designate of Coca-Cola Beverages.

BAGPIPE-PLAYING company restructure Murdoch McKillop is just starting his year's tenure as president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency (SPI). Mr Murdoch, 50, is head of worldwide corporate recovery services at Arthur Andersen, where he has dealt with corporate basket cases as diverse as Robert Maxwell's private companies, Leyland Daf, Ferranti International and Coal Investments plc.

At the moment Mr Murdoch is in Thailand as one of the many British insolvency practitioners bringing their skills in company rescue to bear on the financial crisis in Asia.

A colleague of his tells me that Mr Murdoch's "theme" in his year of office will be persuading creditors what good value British insolvency practitioners are, in terms of rescuing businesses and recovering assets from bankrupt companies. All I can say, Mr Murdoch, is best of luck with that one.

I'm also told there's nothing Mr Murdoch likes better than sailing off the west coast of his native Scotland. The colleague tells me: "With modern technology he is never entirely cut off from the world but he claims that solving problems while under full sail off Ardmurchie Point is much more fun than from behind a desk."

FORMER Tory Ministers just love working for energy companies. Malcolm Rifkind and Timor Eggar already have directorships at oil companies. Now Peter Viggers MP former Minister for Trade and Industry in Northern Ireland, has joined Emerald Energy as a non-exec.

Mr Viggers, 60, is no virgin as far as industry is concerned. Having trained as a solicitor, he was a director of Premier Consolidated Oilfields from 1973 to 1986. He is currently chairman of Tracer Petroleum Corporation and of Lloyd's Pension Fund.

YOU WOULD have to be a pretty brave man to join a Japanese bank at the moment, what with the continuing crisis in Japan's financial sector. Unless you work for UBS, that is.

Dr Paul Cherkow, head of global currency strategy since 1992 at UBS, has been snapped up by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. He will start as the bank's head of global currency research next month, while his former colleagues continue to grapple with the "merger" with SBC.

I HEREBY award first prize for most surreal press release of the week to this effort: "Rodenstock UK, who's parent company is based in Munich, the City of Optics, has invited opticians from all around the country to write a 50 word story associated with horses. These stories will then be judged by the author Fay Weldon."

Don't ask what it's about. Life is too short. And try this book hurb for size: "If we wanted a metaphor we might call this book a 'fad-free diet for saturated executives'". The book is *Driving Change: How the best companies are preparing for the 21st century*, by Jerry Yorvan Wind and Jeremy Main, to be published in May. I think I'm going to the pub to get saturated...

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	100.00				
Australia	2.8013	2.8013	2.8013	2.8013	2.8013
Canada	2.4325	2.4325	2.4325	2.4325	2.4325
Denmark	1.1601	1.1601	1.1601	1.1601	1.1601
France	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363
Germany	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363
Italy	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363
Japan	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Netherlands	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363
Sweden	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Switzerland	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363
US	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363	1.6363

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Argentina	100.00				
Brazil	100.00				
China	100.00				
Czech Rep	100.00				
Egypt	100.00				
France	100.00				
Hungary	100.00				
India	100.00				
Indonesia	100.00				
Israel	100.00				
Italy	100.00				
Japan	100.00				
UK	100.00				
US	100.00				

### Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	7.25%	Discount
France	5.50%	Prime
Germany	5.50%	Prime
Italy	5.50%	Prime
Japan	5.50%	Prime
Netherlands	5.50%	Prime
Sweden	5.50%	Prime
Switzerland	5.50%	Prime
US	5.50%	Prime

### Bond Yields

Country	Rate	Term
UK	7.25%	Discount
France	5.50%	Prime
Germany	5.50%	Prime
Italy	5.50%	Prime
Japan	5.50%	Prime
Netherlands	5.50%	Prime
Sweden	5.50%	Prime
Switzerland	5.50%	Prime
US	5.50%	Prime

### Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Term
UK	7.25%	Discount
France	5.50%	Prime
Germany	5.50%	Prime
Italy	5.50%	Prime
Japan	5.50%	Prime
Netherlands	5.50%	Prime
Sweden	5.50%	Prime
Switzerland	5.50%	Prime
US	5.50%	Prime

### Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open
Long GB	Jun-98	100.9	100.9	100.9	100.9
Short GB	Jun-98	100.9	100.9	100.9	100.9
Long US	Jun-98	100.9	100.9	100.9	100.9
Short US	Jun-98	100.9	100.9	100.9	100.9

### Commodity Indices

Index	Value	Change
Agricultural	100.00	0.00
Energy	100.00	0.00
Metals	100.00	0.00
Grains	100.00	0.00

### Industrial Metals

Commodity	Price	Change
Aluminum	100.00	0.00
Copper	100.00	0.00
Gold	100.00	0.00
Iron	100.00	0.00

### Precious Metals

Commodity	Price	Change
Platinum	100.00	0.00
Palladium	100.00	0.00
Silver	100.00	0.00
Gold	100.00	0.00

### Agricultural

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa	100.00	0.00
Coffee	100.00	0.00
Wheat	100.00	0.00
Soybeans	100.00	0.00

### Other Softs

Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	100.00	0.00
Gas	100.00	0.00
Coal	100.00	0.00
Steel	100.00	0.00

### Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Price	Change
British Equity	100.00	0.00
European Growth	100.00	0.00
Global Bond	100.00	0.00
UK Equity	100.00	0.00
US Equity	100.00	0.00

### Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Price	Change
British Equity	100.00	0.00
European Growth	100.00	0.00
Global Bond	100.00	0.00
UK Equity	100.00	0.00
US Equity	100.00	0.00

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US Equity	100.00	0.00

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# O'Sullivan keen to prove he has turned new leaf

A SMALL boy was hanging round the entrance to the players' area at the Plymouth Pavilions. For a good hour he stood there, watching wide eyed as snooker names came past, waiting for one person. "Excuse me, mister, is Ronnie in there? I've been waiting ages to get his picture."

Some players would prefer the peace of their peers, avoiding facing what can be an endless demand for photographs and autographs, but Ronnie O'Sullivan went when he was asked. "Not too many of them, is there?" Right.

It was difficult, then, to equate that obliging, kindly image with the tyrant whose temper had a fuse so short it barely rose above the level of the gunpowder. But, the young man so confused by the trappings and expectations of his game that he was ready to burst, has changed.

Or, at least, he says he has. It is frequently dangerous to take what O'Sullivan utters at face value, because his mouth sometimes engages quicker than his brain. There have been occasions when he has openly contemplated retirement, or

Two years after his darkest hour, snooker's reformed bad boy is back in business. Guy Hodgson talked to him.

belittled opponents, things the 23-year-old has regretted. He maintains he is different, however, and his frame endorses that.

Eighteen months ago he was a ballooning 15 stone, now he is three stone lighter and his face could be confused with that of an athlete. He runs, he fishes, he works out in a gym, all soothing activities at odds with a tempestuous past. "I'm giving myself a fresh start."

He needed to. Next week O'Sullivan returns to the Embassy World Snooker Championship, the event where two years ago his descent from a prodigy to a rebel without a pause reached its nadir. Saul might hold the record for the most spectacular conversion but Ronnie's thumping of a press officer at The Crucible, for which he was fined £20,000, comes a close second.

Even his mother, Maria, got fed up with him, returning from

prison for VAT offences to throw him out of the family home. "She knew I'd be back within a week because I couldn't hack it," he said. "I apologised, said there'd be a new me and she told me: 'Never mind saying it, do it'."

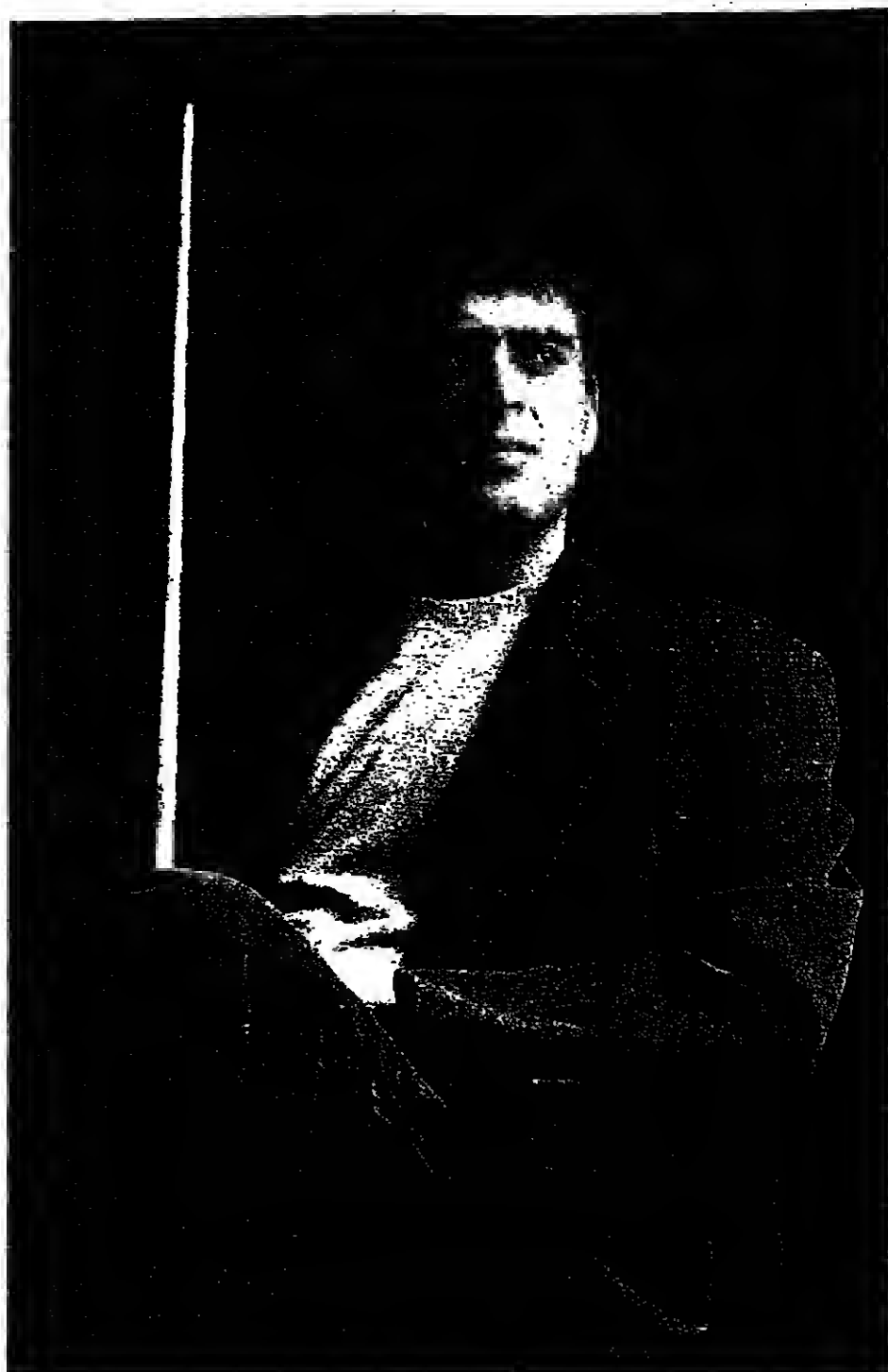
That was when the penny dropped. "I studied myself and didn't like what I saw, the way I looked or anything. I said to myself: 'You've got tons of ability and it's not really worth it throwing it all away. Just give yourself a chance.'"

His road to Damascus was any road or path as long as he could run along it. Eight to nine miles every day, punishing his body for giving it grievous harm in the past. Even in the season he works out regularly, which is some departure for a player who appeared to be following the Jimmy White hedonistic route to success rather than Stephen Hendry's.

"I still enjoy myself," he said. "I go out with my mates now and then and have a good drink and all that but snooker is the important thing right now. I've got to train. I'm 22 and if I'm lucky I've got 10 to 15 years in the game and the only way I'll see it through is if I work at it."

"I'm not like Steve Davis, totally dedicated, I'm easily led. So I have to make up for it by keeping myself in reasonable shape so that when I do pick up the cue I'm half on the ball. If I do have a night out, it's easy to recover from it. I'm training to keep myself ticking over."

This mind set is seemingly reinforced by his switching to Ian Doyle, Hendry's manager, from Barry Hearn. Doyle is not noted for welcoming slackers - his tirade against Ken Doherty, which spurred the Irishman to the world title last year, has



O'Sullivan: 'I'm giving myself a fresh start'

Photograph: Robert Hallam

become part of championship's folklore - and their collaboration had the words chalk and cheese springing to mind. Appearances were deceptive.

"I've always wanted to join Ian," O'Sullivan said. "When I was 17, and I'd just won the UK championship, deep down I knew where I wanted to be but there was a bit of loyalty to Barry. I signed for another three years but as soon as they were up I decided to leave. It's the best decision I've made."

"Ian doesn't make me work harder, he just gives me words of encouragement at tournaments. He phones me up. 'How do you feel, can I help?' He's

working hard for me. You want to pay him back."

The best way would be to win the world championship that has resided within the Doyle stable since 1992 and which has yet to witness the best of O'Sullivan, whose most notable performance was a semi-final two years ago. He has the talent, not even Hendry would dispute that, but whether he has the application is the question.

Snooker is an easy game mostly for O'Sullivan, who made his first century break at 10 and his first competitive maximum 147 five years later. He is a genius but not always one who has been able to grind

out results when the force is not there. This year he has also been handicapped with a draw that could mean he faces Hendry, John Higgins and Doherty.

"I'm not going to put myself under pressure to win the world championship this time," he said. "I'm just 22, there'll be other opportunities, I'm just excited to be there. For the last few weeks all I've been thinking about is Sheffield. The buzz, the atmosphere."

"Nothing surprises me any more. I just want to keep winning and winning. One tournament is not enough for me."

A world championship would do for now, though.

## RFU turns its back on student game

### Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

THOMAS CASTAGNEDE, the audacious architect of a glorious French Grand Slam, believes his country's domination of European rugby to be the direct result of a team spirit forged in the fires of the last two Student World Cups. What is good enough for the Tricolours is not necessarily good enough for England, however: much to the astonishment of some council members, the Rugby Football Union's national playing committee wants to turn its back on the next student tournament in two years' time.

The committee is recommending that England should not field a side in the 2000 competition, a move that threatens to wreck moves by the British Universities Sports Association to host the event. If the BUSA fails to secure the backing of the RFU, the chances of a successful bid are remote indeed.

There is now considerable concern in some sectors of the international rugby community at England's dismissive attitude towards tournaments below senior level; alarmingly, no English side participated in the recent Under-19 World Cup, which was held in France and won in remarkable fashion by the Irish.

Even though the Student World Cup is not an official International Board tournament, there have been three successful events since 1988 and most major Test-playing nations now regard it as a fixture in the calendar. "A third of the French Grand Slam team were part of the winning 1996 side - indeed, Raphael Ibanez, the national captain, led that team - and five others played in the 1992 tournament in Italy," said Bob Reeves, an RFU council member and one of the central figures in England's student rugby movement. "I recently spent several hours with Pierre Villepreux, the French coach, who stressed the importance of the student game in pro-

ducing young, intelligent, open-minded players who had not yet been conditioned by the peculiar demands of club rugby."

Kieran Bracken, Will Greenwood and Tony Diprose are all products of student rugby and even in the last World Cup, when the England team was denuded of 20 first choice players, both David Rees and Danny Grewcock emerged, having been virtually unknown beforehand. Yet we have now reached the stage where the national playing committee is questioning the student game's place in the grand order of things. Villepreux, on the other hand, sees it as a significant element in his development programme.

"We are in danger of missing the whole point of the student sector and, if we dismiss it, we will do so at our own peril. Student rugby traditionally encourages speed and risk-taking, while the senior game is still based on no-risk ball-retention. When France beat England in Paris in February, their whole philosophy was based on the freedom of expression common to the student game."

Reeves is pressing the RFU's management board to overturn the national playing committee's recommendation, but the debate has been delayed by the political conflagration surrounding Cliff Brittle's omission from the union's peace talks with the Premiership clubs and Fran Cotton's subsequent resignation as RFU vice-chairman. The internal squabbling took a fresh turn yesterday when Brittle and Cotton were denied the use of Twickenham facilities for a protest meeting with grass-roots club activists planned for this Sunday.

Senior RFU figures also wrote to those clubs planning to attend any forthcoming Brittle-Cotton meeting, underlining that they would do so without the support of the union. The RFU wants its disaffected officers to apply the proverbial sock to the relevant officer until the completion of the current round of peace negotiations.

## Protest at Scots' withdrawals

THE Australian Rugby Union yesterday resumed its role as the self-appointed guardian of the world game by lecturing its counterpart in Scotland on the rights and wrongs of team selection for this summer's two Test series against the Wallabies, writes Chris Hewett.

John O'Neill, the managing director of the ARU, gave the Scots a verbal dressing-down over their decision to leave half a dozen first-choice players, including Gary Armstrong, Alan Tait and Doddie Weir, at home to recharge their batteries.

"We will be asking the Scots to confirm that the side they send here is the best available," said O'Neill, clearly suspicious that

English clubs had pulled contractual rank on key personnel. "The prospect of facing such a weakened Scottish team is very disappointing and, if they have so many players unavailable, you have to ask whether it is worth their while coming."

Jim Telfer, the Scottish coach, dismissed O'Neill's veiled allegations, insisting that a number of non-travellers were suffering from injuries while both Armstrong, the captain, and Tait were in need of a rest. "We have a World Cup to think about next year and both Gary and Alan are at an age at which they must tend their physical resources carefully if they want to make it to the tournament," he said.

## England's World Cup drill

### Hockey

By Bill Colwell

ENGLAND have their first outing this afternoon since their Australian coach, Barry Dancer, announced his squad for the World Cup, when they play Wales in a Four Nations Tournament at the new Southgate Hockey Centre at Trent Park, Scotland, play France in the second fixture.

Dancer was yesterday concentrating on penalty corner drills as the team practised at Southgate. He was able to confirm that Jon Wyatt and Jason

Lee had both recovered from injury. Strongly featured in the practice was the specialist corner striker, Calum Giles, who has been recalled for the World Cup.

The coach will be using the weekend and next weekend's trip to Milton Keynes to decide on the second goalkeeping slot behind Simon Mason. David Luckes, a 28-year-old Olympian, and Cannock's 23-year-old Jimi Lewis are vying for the position.

David Bunyan, Wales' new coach, has relied on an experienced squad for his first tournament as he begins his build-up to September's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

## On stream for a fast and furious ride



Grant Dalton, skipper of Merit Cup, seeks nature's help on the sprint to Baltimore in the seventh leg of the Whitbread Race

THE warm water current that is the Gulf Stream, although those who live in Britain's north-eastern end of it may have lost some faith in it recently, will be the deciding factor in the seventh leg of the Whitbread race from Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore. It will be a close-fought battle all the way.

It starts off Florida on Sunday and runs north up the eastern seaboard of the United States and is a kind of moving walkway which can give up to three knots of free ride, sometimes even four.

These days there is a lot of information to be gathered from satellites. The spies in the sky can monitor the course of the stream as it meanders north and then

east. They can measure the surface temperature, which is the best indication of where it is running, even though a wind-driven covering of surface water can obscure it and clouds can hamper measurement. They can also measure the hump it makes as there is a slight difference between the height of the moving band of water and the slower track either side of it.

What we don't want is a northerly breeze pushing in the opposite direction, ruffling everything up. A strong northerly can make things really ugly. We would prefer a run, and so far most of the forecasts predict a south-easterly, but we will take what we are given. The leg should take about

the same time as a Fastnet, say three to three and a half days, so the short-course sailing will mean very little sleep for anyone. We are even modifying the food preparation so that nearly everything can be eaten on deck, keeping the weight where we want it, movement to the minimum, optimum boat trim to the maximum.

Fortunately, the boys are well rested after what has been a relatively gentle stopover in Florida. There has been no need to gear up the fitness programme, and they are ready to play it flat out and fast from beginning to end.

No one knows how tricky the last 120 miles up the Chesapeake Bay is going to be. Like

most of the syndicates, we sent our navigator, Mike Quiller, up there for a few days to do some extra research.

If there is a steady reaching breeze, it will be very straightforward. But it is a piece of water with some of its own peculiarities. Not least, the channel can be quite narrow, so trying to overtake people can be difficult. There is some tide, say half to three quarters of a knot, and you have to watch for the currents and eddies caused by the rivers feeding into the bay.

You also have to watch for the crab pots, for which Maryland is so famous; for the electronic warfare games played by the US Navy, which can send all our instruments and satel-

lite positioning systems haywire; for a similar phenomenon caused by a huge steel plant close to Baltimore, and even for the US Seals, their equivalent of the SAS and SBS combined, using unsuspecting yachts as stealth attack targets.

We know a big welcome awaits us in Baltimore, and we may be hosting Prince Albert from our home port of Monaco. We also know there are probably just 40 days sailing left in this Whitbread and we want to be able to look at ourselves in the mirror and say we gave everything we could. We don't just want our second place overall back. Our personal self-respect is as important as the glory.

## Standbridge has to stand down in favour of local Powers

By Stuart Alexander  
in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

PAUL STANDBRIDGE, the British co-skipper of Toshiba, was yesterday sidelined by Dennis Conner for the seventh leg of the Whitbread Race from here to Baltimore. Conner takes over Toshiba and brings in a Chesapeake Bay expert in Annapolis-based Mike Powers, a cargo ship pilot.

Standbridge was gracious

about the move and is due to be back in charge for the eighth leg across the Atlantic. But it is a bitter pill for a man who has not missed a Whitbread start in five consecutive races.

Britain's Lawrie Smith is in Rocky-style fighting mood for the 870-mile sprint, which starts on Sunday. Bloodied, but unbowed by the dismaying he believes cost him a fifth leg win round Cape Horn, he wants to repeat the performance which

put him at the front of the nine-boat fleet coming into Florida. Out against him are at least six other boats capable of scoring a leg win, not least the one which moved up into second place overall, Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match. Krantz sailed for Smith for part of the last race on tntum Justitia before moving off the boat to join Chris Dickson's Tokio.

Smith's primary target is not yet Krantz, much less the overall leader Paul Cayard, who took over from Smith when he moved from EF Language to Silk Cut. Saying a good leg could make a top-three finish realistic, Smith added: "At the same time each of the remaining three legs is a race in its own right. It would be nice to consign to the dustbin, where they belong, all those criticisms of a team and a campaign which is up there with the best."

Krantz has also had some setbacks, carrying the baggage of an eighth place on the first leg, being stranded in a calm when leading the fourth, and seeing two boats rob him of valuable points on the fifth. "We are under pressure as well as putting pressure on others," Krantz said. "We want to keep up the momentum that has seen us move up the leader board, we want to put pressure on ourselves. We have a good

all-round boat and the guys are ready for a big effort."

So are the others. Cayard cannot get enough of winning. Grant Dalton in Merit Cup may at last see some of the lighter running conditions in which he believes he excels. George Collins has rock stars and local knowledge to help him win the race to his home town of Baltimore, and Knut Frostad keeps pulling in more talent on Innovation Kvaerner.

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# Xaar burst lights up Classic scene

**Regal display:** Xaar (left) shows a good turn of foot to outspeed Gulland at Newmarket yesterday Photograph: Peter Jay

Received for consideration, January 2, 1984  
Received revised manuscript, May 2, 1984  
Accepted for publication, May 2, 1984

## Arrow flies in

**FRANKIE DETTORI** got off the mark for the season when driving Border Arrow to gain a neck victory over Albuostan in

Border Arrow, who started at 11-4 yesterday, is now a general 25-1 chance from 33-1 for the Derby while Alboostan, who was conceding 3lb, remains on 33-1.

**First show**

**Newbury — 3.10**

Horse	C	H	L	T	S
The Gay Fox	6.1	6.1	13.2	5.1	12.2
Bald Ethel	7.1	5.1	5.2	6.1	7.1
Goodwill	5.2	6.1	12.2	7.4	12.2
Lord High Admiral	7.4	6.1	13.2	7.1	6.1
Requiem	7.1	6.1	8.1	7.4	12.2
Prophet of the Future	12.2	8.1	8.1	8.1	7.4

Lugo Di Narone	51	54	164	84	51
Papay Gimes	51	54	164	84	51
Spizzigio Phenam	51	114	81	104	51
Bump Hat	164	164	164	164	164
King Of Pets	251	251	51	251	251
Sylvie Paradise	351	251	61	351	251
Jayagame	351	351	351	351	351

Each say a quarter the number 1, 2, 3

C. Const. H. Win. H. L. Lachman, T. Yee, B. Sturley

[illegible]


Place 6: 144.06 Place 5: 126.29

• Rioja (14-1) was another top-rated winner for The Independent's TV Flat ratings. Other recent winners include Rossell (33-1) and Tedburrow (10-1).

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# New season is constricted by archaic values



Photograph: David Jones

shire and Lancashire may have to spend yet another year reminiscing on past glories.

Keeping track of which side is doing well, incidentally, could prove an entertaining task in itself. For example, fixtures in the AXA League, otherwise known as the Sunday League, will also take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays this year, some of them under floodlights. Benson and Hedges Cup matches may be played on a day except Sunday when Championship fixtures start. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday is that clear?



**Leicestershire**

1997: BACG 10000  
AXA travel: B&H  
main-surf: Natures  
ground: White  
Captain: N. Watkinson

The fell from glory at Grace Road, Leicestershire, is the reigning champions slip to the brink of the top 10 should it arrest this time around. The West Indies all-rounder Phil Simmons returns and so does Graeme Lewis. The England all-rounder, who has been out of the side for a while, is hungry for success. The bowling alone will have Leicestershire a serious reputation, since they can already count on Alan Mullally and David Miller to take the youngsters James Omond, a batsman who has done a little heart and will, and the departure of Adrian Pearson to Somerset, could well be called upon to turn the odd ball. Vince Wells proved time and again that his nagging right-arm fast bowler can break partnerships.

Simmons and Lewis can also be counted upon to contribute to the run-making. They are no slouch with their bat, either. Mullally has returned with a ready-made partnership with England's all-rounder, and the new Hampshire star, who has a good hardening strokeplay and an ability to rotate big scores. Wells, captain James Whitaker, Ben Smith and Jan Stasieff will again be expected to provide the backbone of the batting. The Somerset batsman Jonathan Dain will be able to force his way into the team. Leicestershire appears to have lost the way to bat, but practically all the way down the order. Mills brought his total of first-class hundreds with a couple of centuries at the end of the season.

**County Cricket**  
County players: P. Simmons (10000)  
Beneficiary: Norm. Watkinson (Leicestershire)  
© P. Parsons (Leicestershire) A. Pearson (Somerset); A. Thomas, N. Johnston (Leicestershire)

[illegible]

## County guide by David Llewellyn







# Ginola feels World Cup frustration

## Football

DAVID GINOLA believes Tottenham's relegation battle has ruined his chances of playing in this summer's World Cup finals.

The former Newcastle midfielder has been in excellent form since his move to White Hart Lane at the start of the season and the Spurs manager, Christian Gross, even telephoned France's coach, Aimé Jacquet, to sing the praises of the winger, who is the club's leading scorer. However, Ginola was yesterday left out of Jacquet's latest squad for a friendly match against Sweden in Stockholm on 22 April.

With time running out before the finals start in June in his home country, Ginola fears Spurs' plight has given Jacquet the wrong impression about his form.

"It's difficult for the manager because he knows Spurs are in a relegation position," Ginola said. "If we were in the top five he would be more interested by me but at the moment we are in a relegation position, and he thinks I am struggling like the team."

"If you don't come to look at games and just see the results, they lost, lost or drew, and there is nothing on TV about how I was fantastic, you must think I am not playing well."

Ginola was blamed by many critics after his mistake in the final qualifying game for UEFA 94 contributed to France missing out on what looked a certain place in the finals. But the

31-year-old believes it is time that he was given another chance and still holds out a faint hope that Jacquet may give him the opportunity to redeem himself.

"There is always a chance, and I hope I will be in the next game. We have four games to go with Tottenham, and if we can get some good results I think he has to call me just to try. It's not an important game, just friendlies. Maybe he will think: 'It will be good to try David because he can help us in different ways. Just by being in the squad of 22 with his personality he can help us'. What he has to see is that I'm not coming into the squad to destroy everything."

The Premiership will be represented in Jacquet's squad by Arsenal's Patrick Vieira and Nicolas Anelka, who have been rewarded for their exceptional form in the Gunners' charge towards a League and Cup double. Jacquet has also recalled Bernard Lama, the West Ham goalkeeper, but he has overlooked the Chelsea defender Franck Leboeuf for the friendly.

Lama, who also missed a year of international duty after a ban for smoking cannabis, is set to start the match after being named as one of only two goalkeepers.

and Darren Anderton and David Howells have also made public their unhappiness with things at White Hart Lane.

Spurs travel to Barnsley on Saturday for a game that is vital for both team in the fight for survival, and Armstrong dismissed suggestions of a mutiny in the camp.

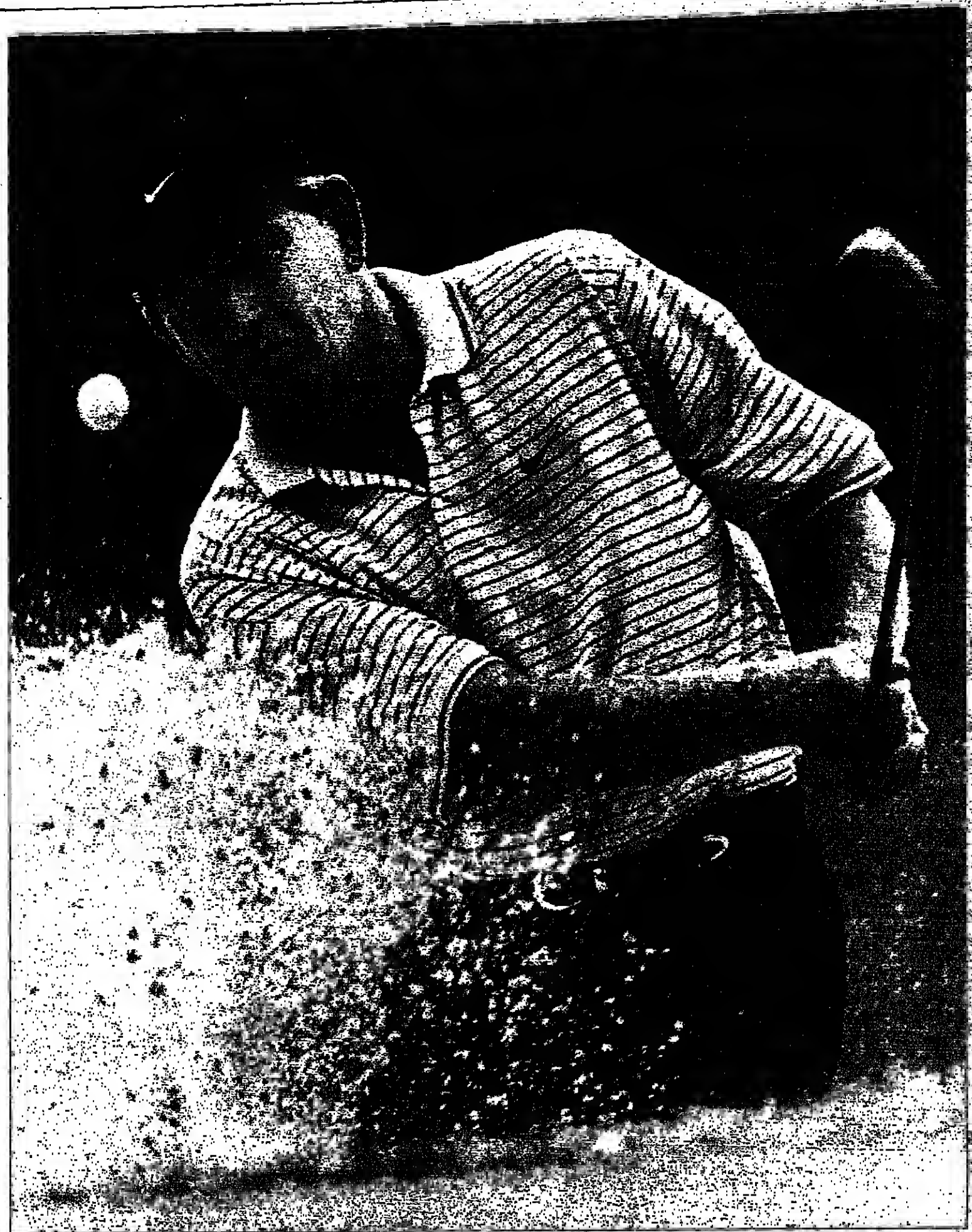
"There is no problem with the players and the manager," he said. "I was disappointed about getting substituted in the last couple of games - I think any player is going to be disappointed about being brought off. There is no problem now, it is all about sticking together. As long as Tottenham are in the Premier League that is all that matters."

"There are a lot of fit players in the squad now and that is always going to cause problems. Everyone is getting back fit so there is always going to be someone unhappy, but it is good for the club and that is the most important thing."

Gross refused to disclose whether he had fined Armstrong for his outburst, but he said he could see why the player was upset.

"I understand if players are not happy or satisfied when I take them off," Gross said. "I wasn't satisfied with Chris Armstrong's performance against Coventry and that is why I took him off."

"He is very ambitious and I like to have ambitious players who want to play. But I have sat down and spoken with Chris and he must understand that all the players here must follow the rules."



Zimbabwe's Nick Price, the defending champion, hits out of a bunker to the 12th green during yesterday's first round of the MCI Classic in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Photograph: John Kuntz/Reuters

## Ferguson finds himself new Star

FROM Alex Ferguson's point of view, racehorses have several advantages over professional footballers. They do not employ agents, they do not go clubbing the night before a big race, and they do not date Spice Girls.

Best of all, when your horse goes to the races, the serious pressure is someone else's problem.

Such were the pleasures for the Manchester United manager yesterday as he visited Newmarket to watch Queensland Star, the first horse to carry his suitably red colours, contest the Stuntney Maiden Stakes. If he had hoped for a little anonymity, however, he was in the wrong place.

At 10.45 on a damp Newmarket morning, the winning post at the bottom of the Rowley Mile was swarming with reporters and cameras as Ferguson posed with Queensland Star and Candle Rags, another two-year-old, for the benefit of the bookmaker who will sponsor his racing silks. Both horses were named with

The Manchester United manager found anonymity impossible at Newmarket racecourse yesterday. Greg Wood reports

commendable sentiment. Queensland Star was a ship which Ferguson's father helped to build at the Govan shipyards 40 years ago, while Candle Rags is a street in his native Glasgow.

"Everyone gets to a point in life where you have to have other interests and you think about restructuring your life in terms of what you are going to do when you retire," Ferguson said. "If you want to stay in football you have to find a way of surviving the pressure, and the last couple of years have rekindled an interest in racing which I had when I was a player. I enjoy the fresh air, it's good therapy for me."

Better still for the manager's

mood was the race itself, a video of which may well feature in Ferguson's team talks in the weeks ahead. Queensland Star was swiftly into the lead, but seemed to weaken as Bodfari Muka closed to within a length with the winning post in sight. A late burst of speed, though, restored a healthy lead, and Queensland Star had almost two lengths to spare at the line.

John McCrick, a Newcastle fan, put it to the filly's owner afterwards that this might be the only prize Ferguson will win this spring. For all the obvious delight on the Scotsman's face, however, he was sensible enough to do so from a safe distance.

"You can't compare this to

winning a football match," Ferguson said. "One is my job and this is my hobby, but it was very exciting. If my team shows as much determination, then we'll get there."

Racing is eager to attract new owners at the best of times, and those with a public profile as high as Ferguson's are doubly welcome. He was surrounded by autograph hunters of all ages from the moment he appeared in the paddock, and it was not merely Manchester United fans who were delighted to see his horse come home in front. It is as well that any new owner experiences the delights of the turf before coming face-to-face with its frustrations.

For, as Ferguson will soon discover, thoroughbreds are so quirky that even football teams seem predictable by comparison. Trainers, meanwhile, will offer endless excuses as to why it is that his horse keeps eating the



Alex Ferguson at Newmarket yesterday, when he was a winner. Photograph: Peter Jay

finest oats but fails to appear at the track (rather like a certain football manager, in fact, when the England squad is announced). And if Queensland Star is ever unlucky enough to feature in a stewards' inquiry, the racecourse officials may not be as accommodating as the Old Trafford referees who award a penalty whenever David Beckham bends down to tie his boot lace in the opposition half.

Racing, page 25

**THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD**  
No. 3587, Friday 17 April By Phil  
Thursday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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**ACROSS**

- Stop orbiting body getting round with the others (4,2,4)
- One acting disturbed at reading (9)
- Attitude taken by lecturer in study? (4)
- Suggest concert should have point (6)
- Modern college affected by drugs? (4,4)
- Stalwart to try and try again? Not right (6)
- Grounded in accident? Little was expected of him (8)
- Uncommon fellow, an artist, one brought in to enapture, mostly (4,4)
- Protection afforded by a yard in insalubrious area (6)
- Where academics may dispute better collection of data (3,5)
- Information about boy brought back from Scandinavian country (16)
- Victim of pellet or bullet (4)
- TV detective caught with poem in cryptic writing? (5,4)
- Put fish in a depth of water with the minimum of effort - and it will do this! (4,2,4)
- Caesar involved with plot to do away with second Egyptian ruler (9)
- Machine-gunner's first intent - to cripple (4)
- More than one stress is lifted when indulging in joints (8)
- Chap seen in river (sacred river) (5)
- Wage? Outlay involves it, on reflection (7)
- Be decisive and put in a damp-course (4,3,3)
- Oriental building is past housing an idol (6)
- Purely interested in mountaineering? (4,6)
- The Spanish slitch here? Not here! (9)
- I'm a dolt sent abroad, without power? (8)
- Most of red beans may make you sicken (7)
- What one calls judge down in Shropshire town (6)
- A new set provided by theatrical backer (5)
- Book on South American city shows verve (4)

## Advertisement

**Max Factor by Cadbury**

Fetch! Fetch! Fetch! the ball!

Oh great! I love this game!

Beg!!! Oh forget it...

It cracks me up every time!

Max Factor by Cadbury

Make the Break